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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the chances of the Legislature passing a budget before the fiscal year ends on Oct. 1?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

GOP Challenge

Obama uses a boisterous Labor Day rally to put Republicans on the spot.

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Biggest Croc

Filipinos ensnare a 20-foot saltwater crocodile–the biggest to be caught alive yet.

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Changed Lives

Americans think of 9/11 as the day that "changed everything," but how many did change?

FOCUS...Page 17

3 La Fiesta bidders could get contracts

»As administration weighs proposals

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

What was once a vibrant La Fiesta Mall is now an empty and derelict structure as shown in this file photo. The government, which is paying $200,000 in annual lease for the idle property, is considering involving three bidders in revitalizing the former mall because of the different expertise they bring to the table.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Inos

Three bidders vying to revitalize the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque may all get a share of the pie as the Fitial administration considers its options, including combining the separate expertise brought to the table by Island Ventures LLC, United Micronesia Development Association Inc., and Pacific Entertainment Technology.

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Beneficiary derivative bill signed into law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

As acting governor on Monday, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed into law the controversial beneficiary derivative bill that has been bouncing in the Legislature since September 2010 and has drawn the battle lines between the NMI Retirement Fund and some retirees and their lawyers suing Merrill Lynch.

"While the opposing comments received raised some meritorious concerns, the measure as passed places sufficient safeguards to address those," Inos said in his message to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

The Retirement Fund Beneficiary Derivative Lawsuit Act of 2011 is now Public Law 17-51.

The bill, introduced by Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), expands

See BENEFICIARY on Page 4

Wilshire disappointed; board calls for meeting

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's investment consultant expressed disappointment yesterday with the signing into law of the controversial beneficiaries derivative act despite Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's earlier promise to junk the bill.

"This is a disappointing development," Wilshire Associates principal Maggie Ralbovsky told *Saipan Tribune* upon hearing the news.

She said the matter is now

See WILSHIRE on Page 4

BACK TO THE SALT MINES

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Seventh graders from Hopwood Junior High School are seen lining up on their way to their classrooms during the opening of classes yesterday morning. Despite seeing significant enrollment increases in many of the public schools yesterday, the start of classes went well in all campuses. Primary grade started classes at exactly 8am while secondary schools began classes at 8:30am. *See story on Page 2*

DPS' release of footage to KSPN leads to suspect's arrest. PAGE 3

Footage shows Ngiraibuuch stealing wallet. PAGE 5

Local

Hopwood posts 20-percent surprise spike in enrollment

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Hopwood Junior High School's enrollment numbers went up this school year despite efforts by the Public School System to adjust school zones to unclog the traditionally crowded middle school, according to principal Jonas Barcinas.

From just 1,114 students on Friday, Hopwood's enrollment spiked to 1,250 yesterday, the first day of school, said Barcinas who, along with vice principals Epi Cabrera and Dominic Camacho, expressed surprise at the high number of enrollees.

To make matters worse, more students are expected to enroll at Hopwood within the month because some are still waiting for supporting documents and are on the school's waitlist.

PSS re-zoned the villages of Tanapag, San Roque, and part of San Vicente this school year to re-direct incoming seventh graders to Chacha Oceanview Junior High School in Kagman to reduce the number of students at Hopwood. The move resulted in over 100 students from these three villages now going to Chacha Oceanview.

Hopwood ended the last school year with 1,046 students. Yesterday's registration is a 20-percent increase; the number could still go up in the next few weeks.

Cabrera disclosed that many last-minute enrollees are transferees from private schools on island and from Guam, China, and the Philippines.

"We're expecting a few more students because there are still some on the wait list completing the enrollment requirements. In two weeks time, we're expecting to have a final enrollment figure for the school year," said Barcinas.

Despite the larger number of students, yesterday's opening went smoothly, the three officials said, attributing it to the collaboration of the faculty and staff who prepared early for their classes.

This school year, classes for secondary schools start at 8:30am, 30 minutes later than last year's 8am schedule.

To guide enrollees on their first day, the names of students, their assigned classrooms, and schedules were posted on the wall of the main office. A large number of parents were also seen on campus, helping the children on their first day of classes.

"Despite the increase in our enrollment at the last minute, we can say that we have a very smooth opening of classes today. Students were on campus as early as 8am and we saw a lot of parents supporting their kids on their first day," said Barcinas, adding that orientations and meetings held prior to the opening was a great help.

Based on its enrollment numbers, Hopwood's teacher-to-students ratio is currently at 1:32 for seventh graders and 1:26 teacher for eight graders, said Cabrera. With more students expected in coming weeks, the ratio for eight graders could go up to 1:28, he added.

As of yesterday, Barcinas said the school had 44 classroom teachers, including substitutes for two incoming teachers from the U.S. mainland.

The school has 44 classrooms, all with upgraded lighting and electrical circuits, brand new air-conditioning units, renovated windows and doors, and new paint.

"We have enough classrooms because we downsized the teachers' count because of the [highly qualified teacher] requirement," said Cabrera, adding that Hopwood has in fact seven extra rooms.

Beginning this year, the school will also tighten its procedures and other policies to ensure student safety on campus. Among them is the quarterly conduct of emergency crisis management drills for fire, earthquake, and tsunami, which used to be held only once a year.

Barcinas also vowed to aggressively pursue educational tax credits to help with the school's operational expenses. The school gets $16,000 to $20,000 in educational tax credit donations a year.

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Smooth opening seen in all public schools

»Bigger schools post enrollment hike; MHS has over 1,500 students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

CNMI public schools had a smooth opening yesterday despite some schools posting large increases in enrollment numbers.

At Marianas High School, acting principal Cherlyn Cabrera disclosed that they posted a 17-percent enrollment increase—from 1,295 last school year to 1,523 students as of yesterday noon. She expects the number to increase as registration is still ongoing.

Despite minor scheduling conflicts for new students, Cabrera said that yesterday's opening of classes was a success.

"It went well. There were a lot of excitement from teachers and students. Although there were some minor challenges, overall our opening went pretty smooth," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

She described yesterday's enrollment as the biggest for MHS in recent years.

MHS has 47 classroom teachers and needs about three more to accommodate all enrollees.

PSS has set a maximum teacher-to-student ratio of 1:28 for high schools. As of yesterday, MHS had a 33:1 ratio—which Cabrera said is "pretty big" and must be reduced by increasing their number of teachers.

"Every hour [enrollment] is growing. Once we have a real number, we will plan on how we can reduce the class sizes," she said, adding that the PSS Human Resource Office is now working on finding three more teachers for MHS.

Of its 1,523 students, Cabrera said that 474 are freshmen; many are transferees from private schools.

At Garapan Elementary School, the student count was at 850 as of yesterday and principal Paulette Sablan expects the figure to also increase in the next few days. The school had 832 students last year.

GES has 35 classroom teachers and a teacher-to-students ratio of 1:20 for kindergarten to third grade and 1:28 for upper graders.

Sablan disclosed that one of the three kindergarten classes is being held inside the campus, while the other two are housed at the MIHA housing at the back of the campus. Once construction of a new building is completed, all these classes will be transferred inside the school premises.

At Saipan Southern High School, principal Jesse Tudela said they had 909 enrollees as of yesterday—a 7-percent increase from last year's 851 students. He said the increase is mainly composed of transferees from private schools and other zoning villages like Kagman.

The school has 31 teachers and a 1:29 teacher-to-students ratio. If enrollment continues to increase, Tudela said he might need more teachers and could run short of classrooms. He referred some last-minute enrollees to MHS yesterday to prevent overcrowding at his school.

Chacha Oceanview Junior High principal Vince Dela Cruz said they have 381 students so far, of which about a hundred come from re-zoned villages in Tanapag, San Roque, and parts of San Vicente. All classes, he said, started on time at 8:30am and closed at 3:25pm yesterday.

He commended all his 13 teachers and support staff who made the necessary preparations to ensure the successful class opening. This is the first time that Chacha did not accommodate sixth graders to make way for incoming seventh graders from the rezoned areas.

DPS' release of video footage to KSPN leads to arrest of suspect

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The release of a video footage of the robbery at Capitol Poker in Sadog Tasi to the local TV network led to the identification and subsequent arrest of the suspect, George Jones Castro, on Sunday.

The 43-year-old Castro was brought to the Superior Court yesterday morning for his initial court appearance on charges of robbery, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, theft, and disturbing the peace. Associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo reduced Castro's cash bail from $100,000 to $17,250.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that police, in hopes of identifying the suspect, released to KSPN on Friday the footage of a surveillance camera showing the armed robbery at Capitol Poker that took place on Aug. 29.

Pangelinan said that she and detective Jonathan Decena interviewed Castro's sister at her residence in Tanapag on Sunday.

Pangelinan said the sister admitted seeing the KSPN newscast and recognizing the suspect as her brother, Castro.

The sister believes that the knife used in the robbery was hers because after Castro left their house in Tanapag on the morning of Aug. 29, she realized that one of her two long kitchen knives was missing.

The sister directed the detective to a residence in As Lito where she had brought Castro on Saturday because he had no place to stay.

Pangelinan said that she and other detectives proceeded to the As Lito residence where they found Castro.

Pangelinan said that Castro readily confessed to committing the armed robbery and getting the knife from his sister.

Pangelinan said the suspect claimed he got close to $2,000 cash from Capitol Poker and that he spent all that money playing poker at Sky Poker along Airport Road.

Castro led investigators to Grand Market in Puerto Rico where he hid the knife in a small flower garden in front of the store. Investigators took the knife as evidence.

Saipan Tribune broke the news about the broad daylight robbery at Capitol Poker on Wednesday, Aug. 31. In that incident, a suspect armed with a knife tied a 56-year-old male cashier and robbed the establishment of between $2,500 and $2,700 in cash.

Payroll for non-critical govt workers to be delayed; child tax checks out

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While a little over 3,000 child tax credit checks will be released this week, payroll will be delayed for so-called non-critical government employees because of bond payments.

Only critical service and federal-funded employees will get their paychecks on Thursday or Friday. The rest will get theirs next week because of cash shortage and the need to prioritize government bond payments.

"We won't get paid on time, but at least we will get our child tax credit check," said an employee at the Legislature yesterday.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that child tax credit checks will be out today.

The processing of child tax credit checks was not completed yesterday, so checks were not mailed out. The administration said the first and largest batch of checks will be released no later than Friday.

He said as of yesterday, critical and federal funded employees will be paid this week.

"Non-critical still planned for next week. The bond payment made a dent on normal cash flow," he said.

The government needs some $4 million to cover each payroll.

Many residents checked their mailboxes yesterday to see whether their child tax credit checks came in. Some said they will check again today.

Inos said the little over 3,000 in child tax credit checks total some $4.6 million. Some 500 more child tax credit certification application was submitted to the U.S. Treasury.

The federal child tax credit is available to taxpayers who have a child under the age of 17. It is worth up to $1,000 per "qualifying" child.

DPH gets $300K to extend use of electronic health record system

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Department of Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez announced yesterday that the Commonwealth was awarded a $300,000 competitive grant to extend the use of the Indian Health Service's Resource and Patient Management System, or RPMS, electronic health record system.

The grant was approved by the Health Resources and Services Administration under the U.S. Department of Health and Services.

In a statement yesterday, Villagomez said the federal agency awarded the Commonwealth $300,000 for fiscal year 2012 last Friday, with recommended annual support of $300,000 each for fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

The competitive grant will enable the use of the RPMS electronic health record system by private health care providers as well as the Tinian and Rota clinics. This will help lessen the cost and burden of individual health care providers from having to procure and implement an electronic health record on their own and enable the CNMI to more readily share electronic health record data to improve patient safety and care.

Additionally, it will help Medicare and Medicaid providers to meet "meaningful use" incentives since the RPMS system is a certified electronic health record.

Saipan Tribune learned that the competitive grant was submitted by the Commonwealth Health Center three months ago to enable the hospital to configure its RPMS to support independent health care providers and the Tinian and Rota clinics.

Health care providers will share the medical records only for common patients, in accordance with federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act requirements.

In a letter to health care providers, Esther Muña, the health information technology coordinator and acting deputy secretary for hospital administration, said that the purpose of network development grants is to establish and institutionalize network relationships that enable sharing of resources to improve health care delivery and efficiency.

"Specifically, in our proposal, the CNMI will share the use of the RPMS electronic health record with interested and eligible health care providers," said Muña, adding that CHC has notified all health care partners of this development and is planning a health information technology stakeholders' meeting later this month.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Commonwealth Health Center has been a user of the RPMS of the Indian Health Service for over 14 years now.

DPH is already using the RPMS system for its Master Patient Index and about 90 percent of residents in the CNMI who have accessed CHC's services at least once are registered in the MPI.

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NOTICE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
REPROGRAMMING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS

Program Year	Activity No.	Activity Type	Activity Name	Activity Status	Reprogram From	Reprogram to
2010	465	Public Facilities	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Children's Park	Ongoing	$1,398.00	
2010	466	Public Facilities	Rehabilitation of the Dan Dan Children's Park	Completed	$16,156.00	
2010	484	Public Facilities	Major Rehabilitation of the Susupe Sports Complex Gymnasium	Ongoing	$5,043.55	
2008	494	Property Acquisition	Property Acquisition (Valley Inn Apartments)	New	$22,597.55	
Total					$22,597.55	$22,597.55

The public is invited to provide written and oral comments on the proposed reprogramming. Written comments will be accepted no later than 4:30 p.m., October 7, 2011 at the main office in Garapan, Post Office Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Oral comments may be relayed to Jeannie P. Mafnas at telephone number (670) 234-7670, 6866, 7689, or 9447. Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations to submit comments may also contact Jeannie P. Mafnas at the telephone numbers above for assistance.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman

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UOG professor gets award for scholarly publication

Ning Li, an associate professor of Public Administration at the University of Guam's School of Business and Public Administration, received an award from the Emerald Literati Network during their 2011 Awards for Excellence.

Emerald Literati Network publishes dozens of academic journals ranging from accounting to aircraft engineering to marketing and business. Every year, each journal's editorial team is invited to nominate the journal's outstanding paper and up to three highly commended papers from the previous 12 months.

Li's paper, "China's technological capability and Northeast Asian integration in electronics industry 1974-2000" published in Journal of Science and Technology Policy in China, was chosen as a Highly Commended Award Winner at the Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2011.

"The award winning papers are chosen following consultation amongst the journal's editorial team, many of whom are eminent academics or managers. Your paper has been selected as it was one of the most impressive pieces of work the team has seen throughout 2010," wrote Nelli Rubante, external relations assistant, Emerald Group Publishing Limited, in a congratulatory email to Li.

"This is testament to the high quality scholarly work Dr. Li has produced," said Anita Borja-Enriquez, dean of the School of Business and Public Administration. "Dr. Li is an asset to our school and his research adds to the body of knowledge in this field." ***(UOG)***

LA FIESTA

From Page 1

Besides reestablishing a commercial tourism center, the multimillion dollar project will also ease the government's annual lease payment of $200,000 for the property.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said one of the three bidders is into shopping malls, one is into hotels, and one is into gaming, so combining their expertise could make the revitalization project a successful one.

He said the administration is looking at "how we can put them together."

"That's kind of the current thinking right now. No one proposer can do the whole thing," Inos told *Saipan Tribune.*

The La Fiesta project seeks to revitalize the property to make it a tourism center that features shops, restaurants, and video lottery terminals, among other things.

"It [contract] hasn't been awarded to anyone yet. It's a complicated RFP," he added.

The three bidders responded to a Department of Finance-reissued request for proposals early this year.

"Looking at the three proposals, they have different fortes. …So how do you blend [them] is the key. That's why we cannot just give it to one of the proposers," he said.

There's no final decision on the matter, he said, adding that a review team is going over the details of the proposals.

Herman P. Sablan, representative of Island Ventures in the CNMI, said that combining the expertise of the three "could be the best route because of the economic situation."

"The combined efforts will be good. …Otherwise the project won't be done and we need that project because of our economy," Sablan said in a phone interview yesterday.

He said Island Ventures is into shopping malls development. Besides vying for the La Fiesta redevelopment, Island Ventures is also planning to build an almost $60-million "seven-story, five-star" hotel resort on public land in San Roque near the former mall. It is negotiating with the Department of Public Lands for a 25-year lease.

Juan Demapan, president of Pacific Entertainment Technology, which is also a bidder for the La Fiesta revitalization project, said yesterday he's not privy to the issue about the government's plans about the RFP.

"It's up to the government. It's now beyond our control so I cannot comment on that," he said.

Besides Demapan, the other officers of Pacific Entertainment Technology are Manny Borja, first vice president; Tony Rasiang, second vice president; and Jack Manglona, treasurer/secretary.

UMDA, the third bidder, owns the now-closed 313-room The Palms Resort across La Fiesta.

Initial estimates are that La Fiesta Mall renovations will cost at least $5 million, but this figure has turned out to be too conservative.

The government has been paying for the mall property lease at $200,000 a year at least since 2004 or a year after the government bought the complex in 2003.

The Babauta administration originally gave Northern Marianas College $3.5 million to purchase a property for a Pacific Gateway Project, which aimed to make NMC the region's "education hub." NMC, using the funds to make the initial payment, bought the former La Fiesta Shopping Complex for $7.5 million on Aug. 18, 2003. The $4-million balance was to be paid in increments of $200,000 annually until paid in full. In 2004, the Office of the Governor took over from NMC responsibility for the property.

Eight years after the purchase, the government is still spending $200,000 in annual lease payments, while the mall structure has deteriorated due to neglect and vandalism.

"The only reason why La Fiesta is an issue for us right now is because it's an idle investment…so we're trying to make it find some return," Inos said.

Inos estimates that the government has already spent some $5 million to $6 million for the property, including the annual lease payment of $200,000.

BENEFICIARY

From Page 1

shareholder derivative actions to the Retirement Fund so that beneficiaries can sue on behalf of the Fund when its board of trustees refuses to do so.

Inos said the legislation requires the beneficiary to first ask the board to take action when he/she believes the Fund has been injured.

The measure also requires the beneficiary to give the board time to decide whether to act or not to act, and has measures in place to prevent frivolous claims.

"Contrary to NMIRF's position, numbers of litigations and cost of doing business is unlikely to rise as a result of this measure," Inos told the presiding officers of the Legislature.

Reyes, co-author of the bill, said yesterday he's grateful to Inos for signing the bill.

Inos said the Fund's portfolio has reached a point wherein members of the Fund have become gravely concerned about its longevity and should be allowed to pursue action "where there is clear evidence to support his/her cause of action against those entrusted to properly invest monies on their behalf."

"This is especially true when the NMIRF's board of trustees refuse[s] to act on the members' best interest," Inos said.

He also noted that the bill is "controversial," citing the amendments, debates, deliberations, and public concerns that came with it.

"Much discussions and deliberations were considered and weighed on the administration's part as well in approving this bill," Inos said.

Mario Taitano, one of the retirees strongly supporting the bill's passage, said yesterday he's "relieved" that the bill is now law.

"Now attorney [Mike] Dotts can proceed with the lawsuit against Merrill Lynch. Hopefully, the Retirement Fund board can sit down with us retirees in filing the lawsuit together instead of having two separate lawsuits for the benefit of the entire membership of the retirement plan," Taitano told *Saipan Tribune.*

Taitano said retirees can now file a lawsuit against the Retirement Fund's company or independent contractor doing business with the Fund if the Fund fails to do so when there are questionable acts committed by the contractor.

He cited as an example the Fund's delayed decision to sue the contractor for a defective pension software that's supposed to upgrade the system, and the Fund's former investment consultant Merrill Lynch.

The Fund's board of trustees remains opposed to the measure.

Senate asked to increase NMI govt's employer share

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund asked the Senate yesterday to increase the government's retirement contribution from $10 million to at least $25 million or $30 million to prevent economic "devastation" from a lack of retirement pension for retirees, as senators review the fiscal year 2012 budget bill that the House passed last week.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the Fund's request will be discussed in today's leadership meeting.

Manglona said the pension program "is a big issue that the Legislature can't put aside," adding that taking away from retirees their pension will not only hurt them and their families but the economy as well.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez, in a two-page letter to Manglona yesterday, reminded the Senate of the dire situation that retirees are facing.

"We have advised the legislature repeatedly over the years and warned of its eventual demise," he said. A consultant had said at the current rate, the Fund could be gone in three years.

Villagomez also brought up in his letter an Aug. 23 meeting he had with Manglona and House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan).

He said Basa acknowledged that the Fund is at the end of the line and that the legislature must take drastic measures to save the Retirement Fund.

"We see no drastic measures in the fiscal year 2012 draft budgets including the one passed by the House last week. You offered that as an interim solution, the Senate would dig deep within the budget and increase the Commonwealth's retirement contribution from $10 million to $25 million or even $30 million. The Retirement Fund is counting on your commitment; the retirees are counting on your commitment; and I submit that the entire CNMI is counting on your commitment," Villagomez told Manglona.

Without this requested contribution, the CNMI economy will suffer an approximate $60 million a year reduction in three years when the Fund runs out of money, Villagomez said.

"Pensioners will go without food, shelter, and medical care in three years. The Commonwealth will be devastated," he added.

Villagomez also reminded that difference between the CNMI pension and other government pension funds throughout the country—the backing of the plan sponsor.

"Ms. [Maggie] Ralbovsky [investment advisor for Wilshire Associates] noted emphatically that responsible governments place their pension obligations first or second only after bond obligations in their budgets," he said.

The Fund administrator also urged the Legislature, and asked Manglona for his help personally, "to eliminate waste, terminate non-essential government programs, departments and agencies, and do all you can to come up with the necessary funds to satisfy the statutorily and constitutionally protected promise that the Commonwealth has made to its public servants including you, and prevent the Retirement Fund from closing its doors in 2015."

Villagomez also brought to Manglona's attention a possible increase in health insurance premium proposed by health insurance provider Aetna in the renewal of the agreement.

He said Aetna's initial proposal includes an 18-percent increase in premium, assuming the current policy is renewed.

"We are working closely with the administration on negotiating options to minimize or avoid the 18 percent increase but it should be factored into the fiscal year 2012 budget for health insurance costs," he added.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), chair of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, said the committee is recommending amendments to the House-passed budget bill.

The Senate is expected to pass the budget bill during its Thursday session.

'Unfair'

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), meanwhile, said it is unfair that the House sat on the governor's proposal for five months and gave the Senate only a short time to work on the budget.

He said the governor submitted his budget proposal to the House on April 1, and the House only introduced and passed the budget bill last week.

Reyes said he will be introducing a bill that will require the House to pass a budget bill by Aug. 1 or by an earlier date, to give the Senate ample time to review the bill.

If no budget is passed and signed into law before Oct. 1 of each year, no general funds can be used except for critical services.

The House and Senate's budget deadlock last year led to a partial government shutdown that forced over 1,000 government employees to be out of jobs for days, until the Legislature passed a budget.

WILSHIRE

From Page 1

with their legal counsel and that they will issue later a formal statement of reaction and plans.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, as acting governor, signed Senate Bill 17-43 into law on Monday, paving the way for retirees to take legal action on behalf of trusts or the Fund when the trustees who manage them refuse to bring such actions.

The Fund earlier urged the Fitial administration to junk the bill because its passage may result in the cancellation of the Fund's existing contracts with its investment consultant, money managers, and other vendors.

The Fund believes the new law will result in an annual loss of $9 million in its investment portfolio, currently valued at $271 million.

Viola Alepuyo, the Fund's legal counsel, declined yesterday to comment but disclosed that the trustees will meet tomorrow to come up with a formal statement and reaction.

"The board has decided to have a meeting on Thursday at 3:30pm at the Fund conference room and will make a formal statement after the meeting," she said.

Alepuyo earlier disclosed that Wilshire Associates had expressed a desire to reconsider its contract with the Fund if the measure is signed into law. Wilshire's Ralbovsky declined to comment yesterday when asked about this.

The Fund hired Wilshire in October 2010, replacing its long time financial adviser Merrill Lynch.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez earlier reiterated the damaging effects of Senate Bill 17-43 if it passes, saying the cost of doing business with the Fund would increase due to added litigation. He said the Fund's investment consultant and money managers would likely cancel their contracts with the Fund because of the additional risk of potentially being sued by people who are not parties to the contract.

The law, the Fund said, would also damage the reputation of the CNMI, "which will be perceived as being a hostile business environment" and it will increase cost of some services such as Group Health or Life Insurance.

Video shows Ngiraibuuch stealing wallet

Jack Ngiraibuuch, a 35-year-old fugitive arrested Monday, was allegedly caught on camera stealing a wallet that contained $5,954 in cash and checks from an officer at the J&P Golf Academy in Gualo Rai.

Detective Buddy Igitol stated in his report that a surveillance camera at the academy captured Ngiraibuuch using a telephone in the booth, then taking a wallet from the victim's purse on Tuesday morning, Aug. 30.

Ngiraibuuch

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a $7,000 cash bail for Jack Ngiraibuch's temporary release.

Govendo also found out from court records that there are two outstanding bench warrants against Ngiraibuuch issued by then Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona in the total amount of $700 for failing to appear at a review hearing in 2009 and at an arraignment on June 3, 2011, relating to two traffic cases. The traffic matters will be heard on Sept. 8 at 9am.

Detective Igitol said that two police officers responded to a burglary and theft case at J&P Golf Academy on Aug. 30, 2011. Igitol said that one of the officers identified the suspect as Ngiraibuuch through the surveillance camera.

According to the victim, the suspect arrived at the establishment at 8:08am that day and asked to use the telephone to call his family. The suspect, identified as Ngiraibuuch, told the victim that his family members were supposed to meet him to play golf.

Ngiraibuuch used the phone inside the booth and walked around as the victim stepped out of the staff booth and sat on a couch a few feet away from the booth's door.

Ngiraibuuch later asked the victim to use the phone again. He then informed the victim he will wait outside for his family to arrive.

After a few minutes, the victim checked her purse and realized that her wallet was gone. She called her husband at home to verify if she had left her wallet behind. When the husband told her the wallet was not there, the victim reviewed the surveillance footage and saw the suspect touching her bag.

Detective Igitol said the footage of the camera showed that, after taking the wallet from the victim's purse, Ngiraibuuch got into a Toyota Echo from the driver's door and left the parking lot.

The victim said her wallet contained $704 in cash and two checks totaling $5,250. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Woman in jobs scam case pleads guilty

A woman indicted on charges of luring Chinese nationals to the CNMI to work in non-existing jobs pleaded guilty in federal court yesterday.

Heqian Ma pleaded guilty to two counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting as part of a plea deal.

She will be sentenced on Dec. 6.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona allowed Ma to be released until then on a $5,000 unsecured bond.

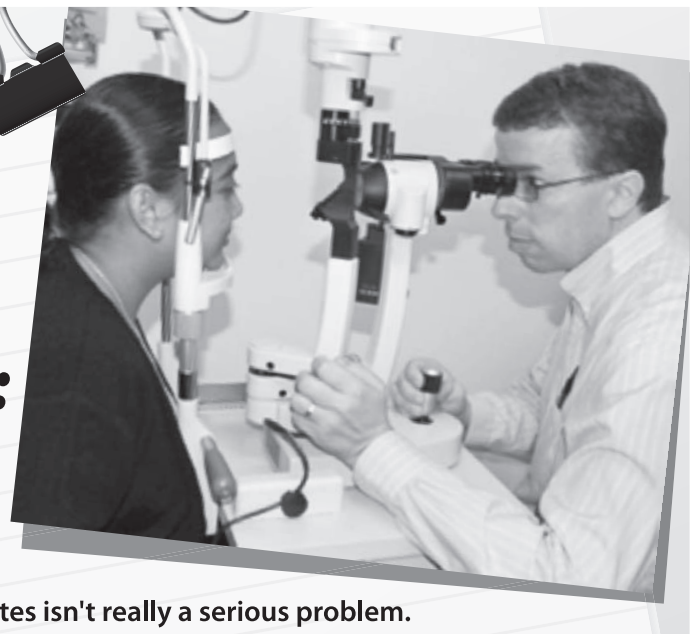
Under the plea deal, Ma will be sentenced to time served if she pays restitution before her sentencing date.

Ma's lawyer, Michael N. Evangelista, told *Saipan Tribune* that they are thankful to the court for its diligence in reviewing all aspects of his client's case.

"We are equally grateful for the court granting our motion for bail modification, paving the way for my client's release pending sentencing," he said.

Assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto appeared for the U.S. government.

According to the indictment, Ma recruited Weifeng Guo and Yujan Li in China for non-existent jobs in the CNMI. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



Please take a moment to take this simple quiz:

Question #1:

True or False

1. Having diabetes isn't really a serious problem.

*False: ***"Diabetes causes more deaths every year than breast cancer and AIDS combined. Two out of three people with diabetes die from heart disease or stroke."*** *Source: American Diabetes Association

Why is there only one question on this quiz—do you really need any more?

Diabetes is treatable and getting your eyes examined is very important. Diabetes affects vision dramatically and can lead to permanent vision loss. An eye exam is a simple thing to do and it could be the difference between catching diabetes early and getting treatment, or going blind.

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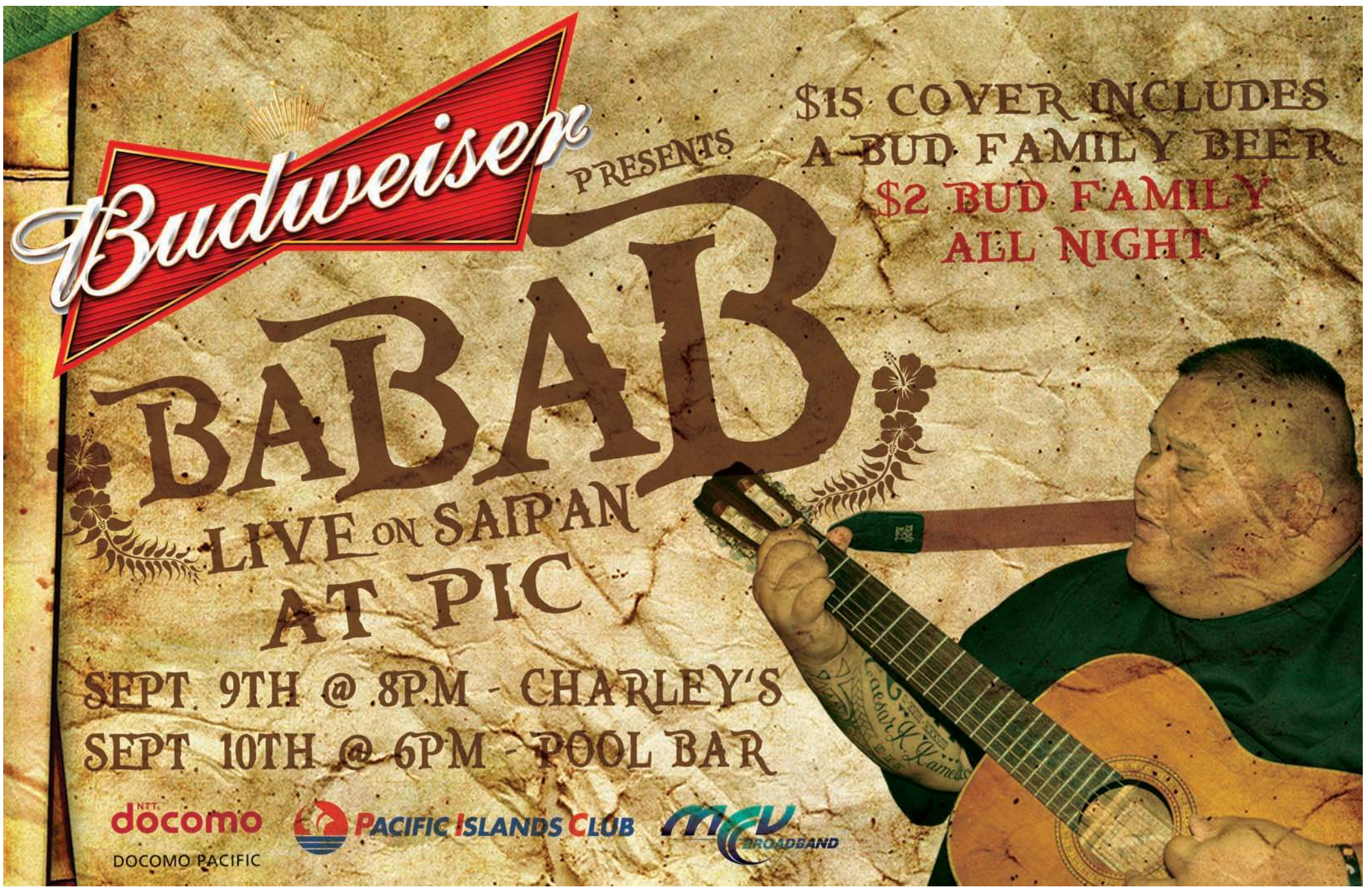

Female bets rule *man'amko* advisory council election

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Female senior citizens dominated the Saipan Senior Advisory Council election yesterday, occupying eight of the nine spots in the annual election by congregates at the Aging Center.

Aging Office director Rose Mondala named the winners of the election, which finished at past 10am.

Maria Salinas garnered the highest number of votes at 44. The other winners were Rita Reyes, Christiana Michael, Alejandra Blas, Meryalen Conrad, Teresita Sorroza, Elena Villanueva, Siyau Muna, and Manuel Mesa.

Being the only male winner, Mesa was appointed sergeant-at-arms.

"I expected that more women will be elected because 90 percent of the congregates are women," Mondala said after announcing the results.

Aging Office program coordinator Walter Manglona urged the winners to work hard for the *man'amko* on Saipan, reminding them that their selection is a vote of confidence by their fellow congregates.

"They all voted for you with confidence so you have to work very hard for the *man'amko* to represent them," Manglona told the winners.

In an interview after the announcement of winners, Salinas expressed surprise and happiness at the outcome of the election.

"I want to thank everybody for their vote of confidence. I will do my very best to make the congregates happy," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

When asked about the qualities that made the other *man'amko* choose her, Salinas said she was "probably spotted as a unique person, they can talk to me, and I can give them sound advice."

"I love everybody here. I want to present to the community our worth as *man'amko*," Salinas added.

The counting of the ballots was held at the Aging Office conference room immediately after the election.

The election had a 75-percent turnout, with only 50 of the 67 voters casting their ballots. Mondala noted that two registered voters recently became homebound clients.

Of the 50 ballots, four were considered null and void since they had fewer or more than the required eight check marks. There were a total of 13 candidates who ran for election.

Mondala, Manglona, staffers Antonia Hossain and Alex Laniyo counted and listed the ballots. Congregates Solis Adriano Jr., Benita Cepeda, Teddy Guiao, and Roger Hernandez served as witnesses during the counting of ballots.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The eight winners of the 2011-2012 Saipan Seniors Advisory Council election pose for a group photo at the Aging Center yesterday. From left to right: Christiana Michael, Teresita Sorroza, Alejandra Blas, Manuel Mesa, Meryalen Conrad, Elena Villanueva, Rita Reyes, Siyau Muña, and Maria Salinas. Salinas garnered the most number of votes at 44 votes. Yesterday's election had a 75 percent turnout, with 50 of the 67 congregates casting their votes for the annual election.

Man gets 8-year sentence for sex abuse of minor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja handed down yesterday an eight-year prison sentence against a 42-year-old man who sexually abused a female minor in 2001 on Saipan.

Naraja sentenced Nena S. Langu to 30 years in prison, all suspended except for eight years and without the possibility of parole, with credit for the time he had already served since his arrest on April 4, 2011. Langu will be released on April 3, 2019, and placed on probation for 10 years. He was also required to pay a $2,500 fine, mandatory court costs of $100, and $1,000 probation fees. Langu will also pay for the victim's medical or psychological treatment.

Langu was required to register as a sex offender and submit to an examination focusing on anger management and alcohol/substance abuse at the Community Guidance Center.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Langu with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree. In another case, the OAG charged him with criminal mischief and disturbing the peace.

Langu pleaded guilty to a count of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree as part of a plea deal. The remaining charges were dropped.

Langu was represented by assistant public defender Douglas Hartig.

Assistant attorney general Eileen Wisor, who appeared for the government, said that Langu engaged in sexual penetration with the minor sometime in 2001.

Join us this SATURDAY morning, SEPTEMBER 10, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!
LIVE HEALTHY: a life Walk with PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. - 13 Fisherman Pavilion
Tinian: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. - Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. - Rota JSHS Campus

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-036

Gasification or Waste to Energy Generation
ADDENDUM NO. 1
Date: August 26, 2011

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following notice of extension to the deadline for submission of proposals and inquiries to CUC-RFP-11-036:

- **The deadline for submission of proposals has been extended from August 30, 2011 to September 28, 2011;**
- **The deadline for submission of inquiries has been extended to September 19, 2011.**

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-036 " Gasification or Waste to Energy Generation"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 28, 2011**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 19, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via email address wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

PSS assets dip by $8.7 million last fiscal year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An independent audit on the CNMI Public School System showed that its net assets declined by $8.7 million last fiscal year.

According to J. Scott Magliari, the decline in PSS' net assets from $79.253 million in fiscal year 2009 to $70.543 million in fiscal year 2010 was caused primarily by the accrual for unfunded retirement contributions amounting to $5.3 million, accrual of unpaid compensated absences of $429,000, and excess expenditures of $2.1 million over its revenues.

Based on fiscal year 2010 audit report, PSS had net assets of $79.253 million in the beginning of the fiscal year. It also had only $75.287 million in total revenue compared to its operating expenses of $83.569 million.

In fiscal year 2009, the system started with $86.437 million in net assets and recorded $64.720 million in revenues. Its expenditures, amounting to $72.999 million, also exceeded revenue. PSS ended the fiscal year with $79.253 million in total net assets.

In terms of revenue, PSS recorded a significant increase—from 2009's $64.7 million to $75.2 million in 2010—because of funding it received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Records show that in the past 10 fiscal years, federal funding received by PSS continues to increase while its local funding support significantly declined from $37 million in 2001 to $36.7 million in 2007. Local appropriation continued to decrease, reaching $31.2 million in 2010. This is a 16-percent decline—a drop of $6 million—from the 2001 to 2006 appropriation.

The following are the combined funding received by PSS from the central government and federal agencies during the 10-year period:

- 2001: $54.2 million
- 2002: $55.2 million
- 2003: $60.2 million
- 2004: $60.7 million
- 2005: $63 million
- 2006: $66.5 million
- 2007: $65.3 million
- 2008: $65.3 million
- 2009: $63.8 million
- 2010: $72.9 million

Veterans outreach in September

Tina San Agustin, the Department of Veterans Affairs' legal administrative specialist for Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, will be on Saipan on Sept. 28-29, 2011, for a Veterans Outreach on veterans' federal benefits. She will be also entertaining questions and assisting veterans and all concerned with their claims.

Agustin will be stationed at the Military and Veterans Affairs Office on Capitol Hill, building 1364, Saipan, from 8:30am to 4:30pm on both days.

For those who wish to make an appointment or for further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.
Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Job Vacancy Announcements

Opening Date: 8/9/11 **Closing Date: 9/14/11**

JVA No. 11-039 for Power Generation Division

JVA No. 11-040 for Power Division (Transmission and Distribution)

JVA No. 11-041 for Water Division

JVA No. 11-042 for Wastewater Division

TRADES ASSISTANT

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in service area assigned. Performs preventative maintenance on equipment in service area assigned. Assists with various construction related duties in service area assigned. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies. Cleans up, gathers and puts away equipment, materials and supplies for activities/projects. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D. Knowledge of: Basic preventative maintenance principles; Basic mathematics. Skill in: Performing preventative maintenance; Performing basic maintenance; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

LOCATION: Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

POSITIONS: At least one per JVA.

SALARY: $11,036.00 per annum.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

Public Law 17-36 restricts CUC in the hiring foreign national workers. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens, U.S. Permanent Residents, or otherwise eligible to work in the U.S. and specifically the CNMI without needing sponsorship by CUC for a U.S. work visa.

Applications may be picked up at the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building or the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

CUC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Juveniles believed to be behind pavilion vandalism

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa__david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Division of Parks & Recreation director Anthony T. Benavente said yesterday he will ask the Department of Public Safety to keep an eye on the Filcom Pavilion area in Susupe after the facility was recently vandalized.

"I will make a formal request to DPS Commissioner Ray Mafnas to do surveillance there. It's just right across their facility so maybe they can do that," Benavente said in a phone interview.

The newly rehabilitated pavilion's green concrete bench facing the road was spray-painted with graffiti. Benavente said he personally saw the graffiti as he was driving along Beach Road last Friday.

"It's so sad that somebody did that. It's one of the beautiful pavilions on island. In fact, everybody is calling in because they want to use it," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Benavente believes the vandalism may have been done by juveniles.

"From my experience, when we prepare and set up for triathlon courses very early in the morning, we see a lot of kids in the beach or in pavilions. I'm pretty sure it's done by juveniles. Maybe somebody is telling them. Maybe they're doing it for some other reason that we don't know," he explained.

The Filipino Community Foundation Inc. funded the rehabilitation of the pavilion, which was originally built in 1993 by then Filipino Association in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The rehabilitation of the 20' x 30' ft pavilion involved the removal of the concrete table and benches in the center and replacing them with concrete benches and a fence. Open and exit gates as well as plant boxes were also built.

Benavente said he is trying to get in touch with the project contractor, Tang Enterprises, to apply paint on the vandalized parts of the pavilion.

Eddie Caranzo, secretary of the Filipino Community Foundation Inc., confirmed in a separate interview that the incident had already been reported to the Office of the Governor and DPS.

"According to them, we're trying to attract tourists to the island but these things continue to happen," said Caranzo, adding that the DPS had agreed to conduct daily surveillance in the area at nighttime and daybreak.

Caranzo said that with the surveillance to be done by DPS, perpetrators of the vandalism done on the Filcom Pavilion will be apprehended.

Benavente encouraged the community to help them maintain the Filcom Pavilion and other pavilions on island. He emphasized that the public's cooperation is "very important."

"With our economic situation and our cash-strapped government, we can't afford to have these problems. We're trying our best to maintain the pavilion grounds. Why don't they help out and chip in these bad times that we're having? Put a little hand and help in the maintenance and beautification of the pavilions. They're for everyone," he said.

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Flights are public charters operated by Sky King Inc.
*Promotions apply to bookings made from Saipan and Guam
*Government taxes and fees of $20.36USD payable on all tickets issued round trip Saipan-Guam
*Government taxes and fees of $38.36USD payable on all tickets issued round trip Guam-Palau
*See Operator-Participant Agreement at www.flyguam.com
*p/p=per person
www.flyguam.com

Fewer work-related injuries since 2003

Project manager Reynaldo C. Deleon Guerrero of the CNMI Occupational Safety & Health Administration On-Site Consultation office speaks to members of the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday. CLARISSA V. DAVID

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Work-related injuries have considerably decreased since the CNMI Occupational Safety & Health Administration On-Site Consultation office was created in 2003.

Project manager Reynaldo C. Deleon Guerrero, who was guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday, disclosed that there were about 1,700 work-related injuries reported to their office in 2003.

In 2009, however, only 12 injury cases were reported. Deleon Guerrero noted that the 2010 figures will be made available this November.

These reported injuries, which included cuts and fractured heads due to trips and falls, were "serious hazards" as these required visits to a doctor.

Still, Deleon Guerrero said the extent of injury in reported cases two years ago "was not as bad" compared in cases reported seven years ago.

According to Deleon Guerrero, the construction industry posted the highest number of injuries in 2003, prompting the need to focus on that industry according to the OSHA Region 9 office.

"What OSHA does is we tend to switch and focus also where reported injuries are very high. We have to focus on that to make sure we bring it down. So that's what literally dictates our visits and our educations and trainings," he explained.

Deleon Guerrero said that many people credit the closure of the garment industry for the decline in reported injuries but he pointed out that garment companies are actually among the compliant businesses through their Voluntary Protection Program.

"That program allows the company to comply with OSHA without having citations," he said.

Deleon Guerrero also attributed the decrease to available materials and publications that he said have been translated to different languages to ensure understanding and awareness among all types of workers.

"We requested for the money and we're grateful as a community here in the CNMI that the federal government is providing us the funding to translate materials so that we can send out and disseminate all these information that's important for the workers," he added.

Deleon Guerrero urged all businesses to avail of the services provided by the CNMI-OSHA On-Site Consultation office, including consultations and trainings, which are all for free.

"Under federal law, you are mandated to provide hazard-free working environment," he said.

While their office currently has three staff to serve clients, with one certified safety consultant from Chicago arriving just last Saturday, Deleon Guerrero said they still need to hire an industrial hygienist who will handle all health issues, including hazardous chemicals.

Deleon Guerrero noted that their office is in transition as they move to Bldg. 1338 on Capitol Hill.

For more information, call 236-0913/0988/0989 or email guerrero.ray@dol.gov.

Farmers map out needs to boost islands' agriculture

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market Inc. has identified near-term, mid-term, and long-term priorities or needs to improve the local agriculture industry and make it the No. 1 industry in the Commonwealth.

Association president Ramon B. Camacho identified these priorities or needs in an Aug. 29 letter to Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar.

Camacho said the lack of farm equipment, irrigation system, and central marketing facility compromise near-term priorities or needs. At present, the local government does not own any farm equipment that can service local farmers even for a fee.

"The lack of equipment poses extreme hardship to local farmers affecting production, due in part to the huge capitalization cost for heavy duty brand new or used tractor, especially one that is equipped with complete set of attachments necessary for large terrain tillage and other field work required for large-scale production for domestic and export markets," said Camacho.

Camacho said that a reliable, efficient, and low-cost irrigation system is needed to be installed since it is "the lifeblood of all farm plots" and would accommodate weather condition and soil typology in the islands.

A central marketing facility, on the other hand, is needed to "streamline our local markets."

Camacho noted that $450,000 is needed to bring about these priorities.

Meanwhile, mid-term priorities or needs include spare parts and consumable materials that are not readily available for farm equipment and irrigation system as well as non-disaster flood assistance like subsidized seeds and fertilizers to replace crops that are washed or spoiled due to heavy rain.

To enable a sustainable agriculture industry in the CNMI, Camacho said permanent staffing or access to fulltime technical experts such as entomologist, horticulturist, agriculture economist, and statistician is needed.

Camacho asked Igisomar for endorsement to enable local farmers "to make a difference in the CNMI economy" by means of reviving the agriculture industry, which ranks as the islands' top 2 industry based on the economic restorations summits in 2009 and 2011.

"Not only would agriculture development flourish to a new level, but it would also spawn small business incubation, jobs, become a tourist attraction, provide access to fresh and nutritious food for residents and visitors, and create new entrepreneurial opportunities, thereby building a sense of community ownership and participation in a secure, safe, and healthy environment," he said.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 8th birthday to Brinae Jessilyn Maratita Cruz who is celebrating her special day today, Sept. 7, 2011! May the Lord shower you with endless love and blessings! Wishing you many more joyous birthdays to come! Love, Mommy, grandma, grandpa, auntie Neng, KayHana Faith, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Juan Leon Guerrero, who is celebrating his special day today! We wish you a day filled with love, joy, care, and fun. We are glad to have you as our loving father. Happy birthday Dad, we love you! Greetings come from your loving wife Juana, Eloise, Ben, Jonathan, Erica, Erin, V.J., and Vinesha.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 7, 2000

NMC sued for illegal termination

A former employee of the Northern Marianas College has sued NMC for alleged illegal termination of her contract after she provided the House of Representatives a copy of the cost-cutting plan of the college during an oversight hearing in 1999. An employee of NMC since July 1987, Malinda S. Matson has held several positions at the college where she first worked as director of Library Services and most recently as acting radio station manager until her termination. In a civil suit filed before the Superior Court through her lawyer Richard W. Pierce, Ms. Matson is seeking reinstatement to a position for which she is qualified at NMC. She is also seeking monetary damages including the loss of salary and the value of benefits denied to her.

House restricts use of fire hydrant

The House of Representatives yesterday passed legislation restricting use of fire hydrants in the wake of report that some residents have opened them up to get water for their own consumption. HB 12-254, offered by Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, will seek imprisonment of up to six months and/or fine of not less than $250 not more than $1,000 against violators. Lawmakers hoped the measure would deter people from improper use of the fire hydrants, which are being exposed to damages that may result to delay when firemen respond to emergencies. The wear and tear on the tread and bolt could cause undue delay during disasters such as a fire, according to a report prepared by the House Committee on Judicial and Government Operations.

Sept. 7, 2001

CHC hires new kidney specialist

The Commonwealth Health Center yesterdayt announced the arrival of Dr. Imran Zahid on Saipan, as part of efforts to make nephrological services more accessible to the community. Dr. Zahid signed a long-term contract to provide full-time nephrology services in the Commonwealth. He is the hospital's second full-time nephrologist. He joins Dr. Hilmer Negrete in the Division of Nephrology and Dialysis of the Department of Internal Medicine. Nephrology is the medical science and study of kidney disease. Having a second nephrologist greatly improves CHC's ability to treat patients with kidney diseases, considered as a serious ailment affecting the indigenous people of the CNMI.

CPA attends global conference in Montreal

The rapid progress in technology, particularly in the aviation sector, will gather airport executives from around the world in Montreal next week to tackle growing airport safety and improvement concerns. Over 120 aviation leaders and vendors, including officials from the Commonwealth Ports Authority led by Board Chair Roman S. Palacios, will participate in the Airports Council International World/North America Conference and Exhibition on September 9-12. Palacios said the CPA will grab the opportunity to learn new things about airport management, safety and other ways to increase aircraft and passenger traffic.

Sept. 7, 2002

HANMI takes part in environmental efforts

Recognizing that protecting the environment is indispensable to the needs of the tourism industry, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands said it wants more participation in the efforts of environmental agencies. HANMI chairman Ron Sablan said the group has already appointed representatives who will coordinate with the different agencies to help address environmental concerns. At the same time, Sablan also credited the Babauta administration for recognizing the needed participation of the hotel industry in the government.

DPH beefs up info drive on measles vaccination

The Department of Public Health has asked staff of the Legislature to assist in disseminating information about the scheduled anti-measles immunization. The DPH had said that over 300 children absent or lacking MMR vaccination shots are at risk of contracting measles, a potentially fatal disease that has been plaguing Pacific islands. In the CNMI, however, no case of measles has been reported so far. At least 385 children have been immunized with MMR shots earlier this year since the department raised a health alert on measles to prevent an outbreak that has been happening on Guam. Pedro T. Untalan, deputy secretary for Public Health Administration, had said the anti-measles campaign will be from September 10 through October 8.

World Youth Day 2011

Eighteen students from Saipan embarked on a spiritual pilgrimage to Madrid, Spain, on Aug. 14, 2011, to join thousands of other pilgrims for this year's World Youth Day celebration, held from Aug. 16 to 21, 2011.

The Saipan delegation, composed of students with ages ranging from 15 to 18, were accompanied by two priests—Fr. Jim Gould and Fr. Art Stoia—and four adult chaperones. The following are essays written by some of the delegates. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

A life-changing, faith-affirming trip to Madrid, Spain

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan delegation to the World Youth Day 2011 have their picture taken in front of a street sign that reads "Isla de Saipan" in Madrid, Spain.

By LEE ANNE YAROBWEMAL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The right words to describe this pilgrimage would be "life changing."

After two days of traveling, we finally arrived in Madrid, Spain. After a whole year of preparation, fundraising, and chaos with how much more we needed to raise, it just felt so surreal to be landing in Madrid, so far away from home.

Everything just seemed so big when we made our way through the city. As the day came close to an end, there was an opening Mass celebrated at the Plaza de Cibeles. That was the first time we saw so many young people. Crowds and more crowds gathered together from all over the world to see World Youth Day start. It was such a great feeling to be among the crowd and realize, "Wow, I'm actually here." Millions of people—children, youth, adults, and even the elderly—came to a chosen place to share with one another their faith in God.

Another amazing event was welcoming His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI. We waited along the road with volunteers from our parish to welcome Pope Benedict XVI as he arrived from the Barajas Airport. Everyone had confetti in his or her hands and flags waving in the air. We waited for two hours. Police came passing by just before Pope Benedict XVI, and then we saw the Popemobile zoom past us in the blink of eye. Even though it was just for a few seconds, at least we were able to get that close to him. His Holiness then had a gathering with us at the Plaza de Cibeles. People on the roads and streets would yell out "Benedicto" or "Viva El Papa!"

Catechesis was arranged by language groups. Ours was located at the Palacio de Los Deportes. There were so many people that we were asked to sit at our seats because more youth were just waiting outside the arena to make their way in. We heard bishops and others share with us their stories about vocation and their faith in God. They had concerts, activities, and after all of that, we still had Mass.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some members of the Saipan delegation have their picture taken at the Saipan International Airport after arriving from Madrid, Spain, where they attended the World Youth Day 2011.

The days went by quickly, but we still had so much to do. The Pope led the Way of the Cross, which we watched from the Plaza de Colon. Somehow, the streets just get more and more crowded no matter how early you come. The Pope also celebrated a great vigil with the youth at the Cuatro Vientos Airfield. That was where we would spend the night with all the other young pilgrims. You'd see crowds of people walking through the streets, singing joyful songs out loud.

Although World Youth Day has come to an end, it's just the beginning of each and every pilgrim. This experience is one that I will never forget. From hours of riding the metro to hours of endless walking, everything was all worth it. On the day of the World Youth Day's closing Mass, you begin to realize the reason for coming to this big event. No matter where you come from or who you are, we all came here for one reason: to share our faith and belief in God. We may all look different, but we are just the same as any human being on this earth. Even though it lasted only two short weeks, the memories and events in Spain will always be with me. To think back, I realize what a great experience it was. I want to thank everyone who helped me get to this wonderful event. As for me, I encourage many of the youth here to try and make it to the next World Youth Day in Brazil. It's such a great and life changing experience. *Muchas gracias por tu apoyo! Hasta luego!*

Lessons learned

By VLADIMER DELOS SANTOS DEL ROSARIO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

"World Youth Day" is a Catholic gathering that happens every three years, where youths from around the world come together to celebrate this holy and special event.

My experience at this year's "World Youth Day" in Madrid, Spain, was life changing. It will be an experience never to be forgotten. Imagine celebrating this remarkable event with more than a million people and with His Holiness Pope Benedict the XVI!

At first, I didn't know what to expect when I reach Spain, as it would be my first time there. At the same time, I wondered what will be my next step once "World Youth Day" is over, and why I was selected to go on this trip. Going to places like the first Mass, where more than a million people showed up, meeting the Pope, waiting for him to arrive in Madrid, sleeping under the stars and watching God's wonderful creation above, going to Burgos, visiting the cathedrals and the old churches, and many more places, I wondered: Why was I chosen and was able to make this trip, thinking that I might be sent by God for a reason.

It was while inside a church in Burgos that I realized why I was sent here. Basically, to know more about myself, why was I sent here to this world, and what is my mission here. Not only that but also to know more about my religion, the Catholic faith, and get closer to God.

Going on this trip made me realize that I should not waste the time that God gave me. Whatever time is given to you, use it wisely because you can't get it back. I should not waste this wonderful life that God gave me, I should remember that this body I am in is not mine but God's. It's given to me to spread the faith to the youth and to all the people around the world, telling them to reach out and spread God's word, and to let them know that our Lord Jesus Christ loves them and is always there for them. This trip also made me realize how our Catholic faith is important. Going to churches around Madrid, Burgos, and Korea (where we had a layover) made me aware of how beautiful God's churches are.

I will never forget this trip. Even though the CNMI pilgrims went to a lot of struggles, challenges, and sacrifices, it all paid off. This trip was not a vacation; it was for us to get closer to God, to know more about our Catholic faith, and to see God's beauty around the world. I believe that this trip was made for us youth to understand more about Jesus, to learn more about His ways, and to spread His holy words around the world.

I also learned the true meaning of the word "Joy." It means "Jesus," "Others," "Yourself." This word made me realize I should not put myself first, but God. Why? He brought me to this world to love Him and to be one of His people. I should also care for others, helping them, leading them to a right path of the Lord, showing them there is always hope and God is always there. And finally myself, to always love God and His people.

This trip was amazing because I was able to meet new people around the world. I was able to know more about my faith, how important it is, and how blessed we are. This journey was a gift from God. As long as you believe in Him, anything can happen. This trip also involved a lot of sacrifice but in the end you will realize that all of your hard work was worth it.

This trip also changed me, leaving behind my bad attitudes in Madrid and bringing back to the Marianas a new me, a better person, a good child to my parents, and a good child of God. Life is too short and I should live my life to the fullest. I should use my life wisely serving God in many ways, helping people, and giving back to our community.

Changing for the better

By BENEDICK PINEDA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The first two days I was in Madrid was kind of hard for me because for the first time in my life I wasn't traveling with my parents. I met new people like señor Raffael and our host señor mayor. It was also kind of hard for us to communicate with other people because they speak Spanish and we speak English. But luckily we had Fr. Art with us to translate for us. The day that I really liked was Aug. 21, because that was the night when we slept under the stars at Cuatro Vientos. The trip to Madrid changed a lot of things for me. I took responsibility when I am alone. I disciplined myself as my parents were not there with me. When I returned, I never talk back to my parents anymore and I now follow what my parents tell me.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Testing Japan's new leader

When a country has a bicameral legislature controlled by opposing parties and lacks leaders capable of bridging partisan gaps, coming up with a strategy for ending an economic crisis is devilishly tricky. If you think this kind of gridlock is paralyzing Washington, consider Tokyo.

Japan last week elected its sixth prime minister of the past five years. Rick Perry he is not; former Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda, who is conservative by Japanese standards, is a lifelong politician whose extreme humility raises some eyebrows even in Japan, where modesty is a political virtue. In his acceptance speech after being elected head of the Democratic Party of Japan, he compared himself to a mud-dwelling fish, saying his looks wouldn't win his party any votes but promising to work hard anyway. "Sweating ineptly, but with all my strength and all my heart, I will advance this country forward," he said.

Japan faces severe economic challenges, with the most worrisome debt-to-income ratio in the industrialized world (its debt amounts to 200 percent of the country's gross domestic product, compared with about 100 percent in the U.S.). It must cope with massive reconstruction costs in the wake of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, its social security system is teetering as the population ages, and an uptick in the value of the yen is pummeling the country's manufacturers. Tokyo's response to these problems will reverberate here and around the globe because of the importance of Japan's export-driven economy to the worldwide economic outlook.

Noda has spoken in favor of raising the national sales tax as a way of reining in the debt crisis, though he has been unclear about specifics; on the other side are politicians who want to rebuild quake-ravaged areas by issuing more bonds. The details of the solutions may matter less than finding something that can pass muster not only with Noda's party, which controls the lower house of the Diet, but with the Liberal Democratic Party, which controls the upper. The split, which former Prime Minister Naoto Kan was unable to overcome, has led to paralysis and all-too-frequent leadership shifts. The government's failure to come up with a coherent policy prompted Moody's to downgrade Japanese bonds last week to a level below those of European trouble spots Italy and Spain.

Can Noda overcome the partisan squabbles? Of the five candidates in the leadership race, he appeared the most open to cooperating with the other side. The question in Tokyo now is whether the other side will work with him. For the good of the Japanese and everybody else, we hope their opposition party is more open to compromise on taxing and spending than ours.

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High unemployment doesn't have to be the new normal

By EVELYN GANZGLASS
CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY

This Labor Day is different. The old truths about a dynamic labor market in which the young and unemployed could quickly find jobs have given way to a grim new reality—weak job growth and high levels of prolonged unemployment.

This shift threatens to transform far too many of America's once productive workers into permanently unemployed or unemployable people. Nearly one-third of the nation's 14 million unemployed workers have been jobless for a year or more, and an additional 8.4 million are working part-time because their hours have been reduced or they simply can't find full-time jobs. Equally troublesome is that only 58 percent of those over age 16 are working, the lowest percent since 1983. The employment situation is worse for young people, older workers, black and Hispanic workers and those with no more than a high school education.

The unemployment rate has hovered around 9 percent or more since April 2009, and the shock value has worn. But if we allow idle workers and persistently high unemployment to become the new normal, we risk the deterioration of communities as well as the nation's position as a global economic force.

Research shows persistently high unemployment has negative long-term social and economic consequences for individuals and families. The longer people are unemployed, the less employable they become because their skills decline and they lose connections to networks that may help them find jobs.

College graduates who enter the workforce during a recession have lower lifetime earnings than those who began working when jobs were plentiful. Their entire careers and financial livelihoods are negatively affected by their early labor market experience. Older unemployed workers often leave the labor market altogether, which reduces their retirement incomes.

Joblessness adversely affects children, too. For example, research shows parents' diminished economic resources negatively affect their children's education attainment. Heightened family economic insecurity is also associated with increases in child neglect and family violence.

These negative outcomes for individuals and families are reason enough to invest resources in jobs creation. However, the harmful consequences extend farther. The Department of Labor notes that we celebrate Labor Day because the, "vital workforce added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy."

In other words, American workers make this country prosperous. Our more than two-year-old economic recovery is fragile in part because far too many Americans lack jobs. But it doesn't have to remain this way. There are actions the nation can take to address high unemployment in the short- and long-term. But it requires that federal lawmakers do more than simply acknowledge we have a jobs crisis. They must also begin addressing this problem with the same level of urgency that they devoted to the debt ceiling. Two strategies they could implement are work sharing and subsidized jobs.

Work sharing is a federal-state unemployment insurance program that allows companies faced with reduced demand to cut all employees' hours instead of laying off some workers. Company workers, in turn, maintain their jobs and benefits and also receive partial unemployment compensation to help offset lost income. Twenty-two states have work sharing programs. During 2009 and 2010, companies' use of the program saved 265,000 jobs, according to the Department of Labor. The federal government can help save more jobs by providing incentives to states to encourage more of them to enact work sharing programs.

Another immediate job creation strategy is subsidizing jobs to provide opportunity for youth and long-term unemployed workers, a strategy that has been shown to benefit workers and employers. Last year, the government ended a successful, two-year subsidized jobs program that provided employment for about 250,000 people. The program put people to work while jobs were scarce, and it also helped employers boost productivity. A subsidized jobs program could be funded outright, or it could replace the $1 billion federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit program, which has had little effect on hiring and retaining disadvantaged workers.

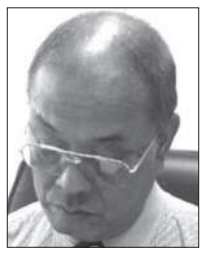
For the long-term economic health of the nation, we must maintain investments in education and training to build a strong workforce. This is critical at a time when more jobs require increased skills. Experts project that by 2018, nearly two-thirds of the nation's jobs will require some postsecondary education, but right now just over half the working population meets this threshold. A recent report of the congressional Joint Economic Committee predicts that, "without strategic investments in worker training, high rates of unemployment and long-term unemployment will persist, resulting in greater outlays for government, a reduction in revenues and slower economic growth."

Federal lawmakers are still in their districts this Labor Day for the August recess. Some of them will issue public remarks celebrating the nation's workers. But the remarks will be hollow if they fail to return to Washington and take action to make sure the nation invests adequate resources to put people back to work and restore well-being to families and communities and economic health to the nation. High unemployment doesn't have to be and shouldn't be the new normal.

Evelyn Ganzglass is the director of workforce development at the Center for Law and Social Policy.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Horrendous cost of utilities



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

The day H-Mart on Middle Road put up shutters, it re-echoed the sentiment of other midsize and large investors who did the same due to the prohibitive cost of utilities here. H-Mart noted having to work up nearly all its profit to pay CUC some $10K per month. No wonder larger investors put up their shutters earlier, saying "it's no longer profitable doing business in the NMI."

That it is "no longer profitable" doing business here is another bad omen for any and all efforts to revive foreign investment or the local economy. This as the big blue boys sit in their offices dazed at the largess of years of neglect. It must be one humongous agenda trying to figure out which of the dinky laws they've passed have contributed to the current contraction of business here. Turns most elected folks intoning, "When it's sleepy time in paradise."

Other than struggling businesses, all consumers too have been saddled with the wrath of merciless surcharge fees. For those billed over $1,000 per month, failure to pay means immediate disconnection. All family income is literally funneled for utilities as though it is the sole family obligation. Just as you pay off the current month of over $1,000 you start chasing down more nickels and dimes to try meeting next month's bill. It's woefully difficult that includes disconnection even for those receiving housing assistance.

Mirrored against the Fund's plans to cut pension and disabilities from recipients and piled with the reluctance of the administration to work synergistically with Kilili's office to increase nutritional assistance, it makes one wonder if paradise has in fact descended into a complete hellish hole for all. If you will, the character of SNAP has changed over the years. It is basically "supplemental" even for the working class.

Too, we can't ignore how the business sector fares in all these. In other words, if the balance of the business community doesn't expand beyond borderline shuttering of operations, you can rest assured that revenue generation would head Deeper South than we're wiling to admit. Obviously, the culprit is in the surcharge, combined with anti-business or investment laws. It's okay, you can devour your next bone soup, but please spare us being caught snoozing on the job.

Remember the three grains of rice?

Occasionally, I would remind leadership of the story about a once rich family that splurged their largess in one too many barbecues. They woke up one morning to find out that they've spent every penny in their bank account. It was a hard reality to accept after almost a year of wasteful spending.

And so the mom checked the rice container to cook lunch. There's only three grains of rice in it. She picked them up and made the famous Pacific Soup in a huge pot. That was the only thing available for the entire family. A decision was made to bring everyone to the table so everybody slurps rice soup.

Each slurps his or her share of soup while watching the person next to him to ensure he doesn't gobble any of the three grains of rice basically mashed and mixed into the soup after several hours on the stove. We too have splurged in style like there's no tomorrow. So everybody is now watching how the Legislature divvies the soup without any of the three grains of rice in our small bowl. *A' Saina ayuda ham*!

■ ■ ■ ■

The rights of citizens

We've gone through civics classes learning the first principles upon which our country was founded. One principle stands out as most prominent: The right to life and other rights as derivatives of the principle rights.

We also learned about equality amongst the multi-layered melting pot of our country. It represents the moral commitment of fellow citizens to protect individual rights to own property. It is one of our Bill of Rights. But we ran aground on this issue of citizens' rights to own property in our own constitution known as Article 12.

It now brings you closer to reality check in your moral obligation to protecting the "equal" rights for all U.S. citizens! Article 12 puts us to a test whether we really understand the essence of the first principles, a pre-requisite to fostering harmony right here at home.

It is our collective responsibility as citizens to reconcile the obvious contradiction under Article 12 that denies other citizens their right to own property. It's called "equality." I'd like to note too that landownership (upon repeal of Article 12) still limits it to citizens of the U.S. Foreigners can't own land here, pure and simple.

■ ■ ■ ■

All year 'round legislative X-mas

The argument to impose accountability and punishment in how legislators spend the $5,000 subsistence allowance is a move closer to ascertaining the strengthening of self-government in the NMI. Anybody who disagrees with it must resign forthwith. It goes to illustrate in no uncertain terms that you're into policy-making quite ignorant that your sacred document reigns supreme over legislative rules.

The woefully generous subsistence allowance is a pipe dream for taxpayers all over the economically stricken archipelago. Perhaps this explains the acquired arrogance by imbecilic lawmakers who refuse to be made accountable in how they spend public funds. That we no longer have a lumpy budget, the alternative is to rent two four-bedroom apartments and require them to live together like students live in dormitories. It's the right thing to do! Now!

Post-9/11 'new normal' looks much like old

By CALVIN WOODWARD
Associated Press

Cal Woodward writes about the U.S. government from the Washington bureau of The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON (AP)—In the crucible of Sept. 11, no one could imagine things would ever be the same again.

Seems they pretty much are.

The attacks that spawned two wars and will shout forever from history books are well receded from daily life for most Americans.

Not so for the soldiers who have fought or for those in government who know there will be hell to pay if the nation is ever caught so off guard again.

For the rest?

The "new normalcy," as life under threat was called 10 years ago and many times since, is resembling the old one. Airport security shakedowns excepted.

This, after an epoch shaped by fear and fighting, the onset of the Patriot Act and all its new powers and the cobbling together of a homeland security superstructure meant to see over everything and is itself overseen by more than 100 committees in Congress.

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, the United States was host to all sorts of un-American activities.

Perpetually bickering politicians hugged. Americans stopped shopping. Lawyers even ceased suing.

Almost everyone was on the same page.

On the radio, home of shock jocks and other crudities, they stopped playing sad songs and got ultra-sensitive. Even "Leaving on a Jet Plane" was nixed from playlists.

An in-your-face people feared their own shadows. Pollsters asked a weird question: How are you sleeping?

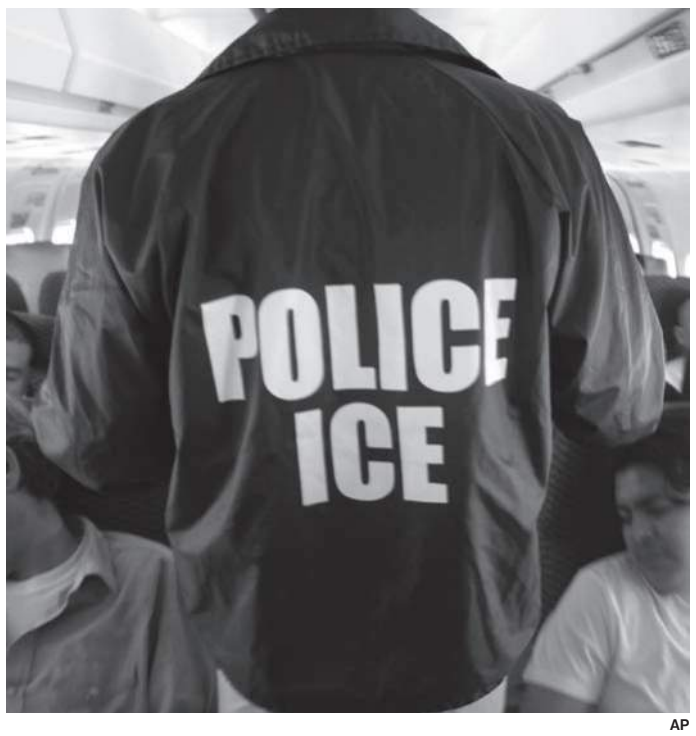
It was an unnatural state of affairs, and it is largely gone.

Handing off the wars and the swollen anti-terrorism apparatus to his successor, President George W. Bush said in his final White House address in 2009 that "most Americans were able to return to life much as it had been before 9/11." He quickly added: "I never did."

He waged a war thrust upon him, in Afghanistan, and one of his own choosing, in Iraq. Both started fading from public attention even before President Barack Obama inherited them, upped the effort in Afghanistan, then began winding both down. Economic woes came roaring in as the public's chief concern.

With respect to the 9/11 tragedy, Ken Kreitner, 64, a Vietnam veteran from St. Louis, said, "I do think of it very often. Oh, yes. Almost every day."

But now, he added, "I do feel safe."



AP

In this May 25, 2010 file photo, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent walks down the aisle of charter jet for deportation in the air between Chicago and Harlingen, Texas.

Lee Hamilton, a leader of the Sept. 11 commission that exposed pre-attack intelligence flaws, never stops believing the government can't be too careful and that people might be letting their guard down a bit too much.

"We better not be complacent," he told the AP. "That's what worries me.

"I've always felt in the homeland security business, the sense of urgency has declined. There's a frame of mind that is business as usual."

Leaders warned that the time ahead would be like none before it, a war without the usual rules of engagement or surrender against an enemy that can be crushed here and there, only to regenerate over time.

Americans were asked to be patient, yet persistently vigilant, yet to get on with their lives, shopping included.

Two presidents and both parties in Congress asked plenty from service members, their families and National Guard citizen-soldiers taken from their jobs. The surge of patriotism after Sept. 11 settled into a more normal love of country and exasperation with its direction.

Abnormal valentines from abroad eventually vanished. After the attacks, Iranians waved candles on the streets for America. They were back to "death to America" after Bush labeled their government evil and prepared to invade Iraq.

Le Monde newspaper in Paris asserted "We are all Americans today" after 9/11, then declared Europeans "have a different truth to proclaim" as unity frayed.

The killing of Osama bin Laden on May 1 was a celebratory moment across the country but just that, a moment. Ten years from now, most are not likely to remember where they were and what they were doing on 5/1.

Ten years after 9/11, everyone old enough remembers almost everything.

"Everything came to a halt, whole store, everybody was in shock" recalls Candice Parker, 39, meat manager of a retail store in Anchorage, Alaska.

She couldn't help then but to think "Muslims are out to get us" and was nervous taking taxis because the driver might be one of them.

Now, she says, "I feel very safe." She does not think about 9/11 every day and "after a while, you're not so aware of the behaviors that changed."

But Parker does not feel completely the same as she did before the attacks that unfolded more than 4,000 miles away.

"I'm trying to make sure that I live life with really strong morals and live every day to its fullest," she said. "I think 9/11 has really validated that for me.

"Life's short. Take advantage of your day."

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

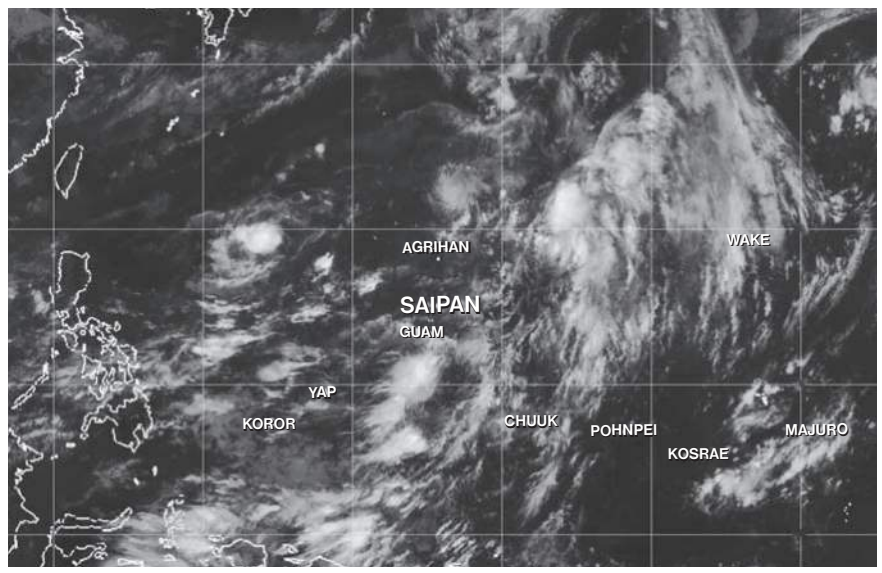
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼77
Palau	Rain	▲85	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼72
Kosrae	Rain	▲87	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲61	▼48
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼64
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼75
London	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼54
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲91	▼66
Manila	Thundershowers	▲84	▼79
Melbourne	Sunny	▲60	▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼77
New York	Rain	▲67	▼63
Osaka	Sunny	▲86	▼69
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼53
Pusan	Sunny	▲79	▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲87	▼66
Salem	Sunny	▲92	▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼57
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼67
Tokyo	Sunny	▲84	▼70
Washington, DC	Rain	▲67	▼66

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends east-northeastward from a tropical depression located near 19N134E well to the northwest of the Marianas through a weak circulation located north of the Northern Marianas at 22N147E and then northeastward from 22N153E to north of 25N157E. Scattered to numerous showers showers and isolated thunderstorms are located within 150 miles of the tropical depression and within 60 miles of the weak circulation to the north. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located well east of the Marianas and north of Chuuk and Pohnpei in converging southeasterly flow of the trough axis from 9N to 25N between 152E and 160E further to the east out to 170E near Wake Island. An extensive region of upper-level cloudiness exist with a few embedded thunderstorms. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorm are located south of Palau and Yap island in light converging easterly winds from the equator to 3N between 130E and 142E and also along the axis of a weak trade-wind trough located south of the Marianas in eastern Yap state from 5N to 11N between 142E and 145E between Kosrae and Majuro. A trade-wind trough is helping to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from 2N to 7N between 163E and 173E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:03 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:54 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
5:24 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
10:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:39 PM	1:21 AM
Thursday	3:26 PM	2:17 AM
Friday	4:09 PM	3:11 AM
Friday	4:49 PM	4:02 AM
Saturday	5:27 PM	4:51 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 24, 2011

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX
0Z604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
0Z604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 4, 7
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
0Z704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
0Z702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am	5, via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z750/603	1:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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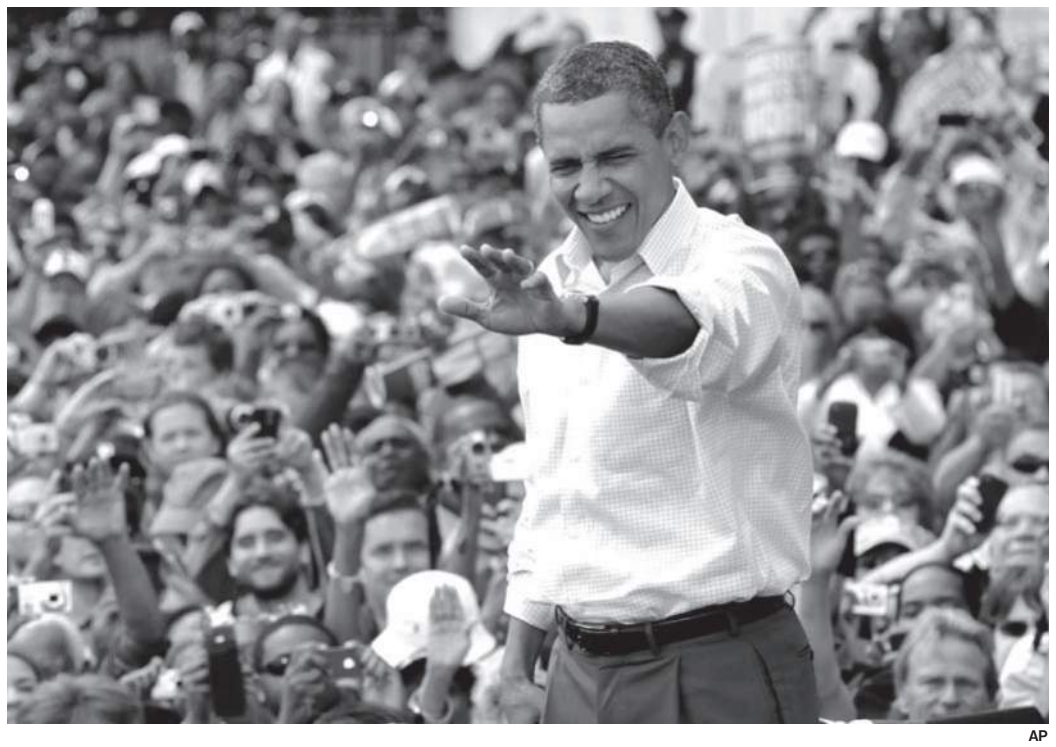
Business

Obama says GOP must back US first, create jobs

DETROIT (AP)—President Barack Obama used a boisterous Labor Day rally to put congressional Republicans on the spot, challenging them to place the country's interests above all else and vote to create jobs and put the economy back on a path toward growth. "Show us what you've got," he said.

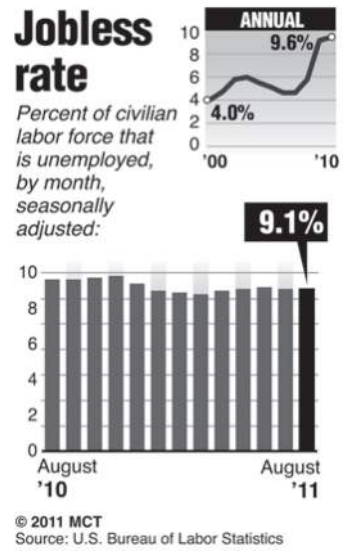
In a partial preview of the jobs speech he's delivering to Congress Thursday night, Obama said roads and bridges nationwide need rebuilding and more than 1 million unemployed construction workers are itching to "get dirty" making the repairs. He portrayed Congress as an obstacle to getting that work done.

I'm going to propose ways to put America back to work that both parties can agree to, because I still believe both parties can work together to solve our problems," Obama said at an annual Labor Day rally sponsored by the Detroit-area AFL-CIO. "Given the urgency of this moment, given the hardship that many people are facing, folks have got to get together. But we're not going to wait for them."



AP

President Barack Obama waves to supporters during a Labor Day speech at Detroit's Renaissance Center, headquarters of General Motors, Monday, Sept., 5, 2011, in Detroit, Mich.



"We're going to see if we've got some straight shooters in Congress. We're going to see if congressional Republicans will put country before party," he said.

Congress returns from its summer recess this week and the faltering economy and jobs shortage are expected to be a dominant theme.

Besides spending on public works, Obama said he wants pending trade deals passed to open new markets for U.S. goods. He also said he wants Republicans to prove they'll fight as hard to cut taxes for the middle class as they do for profitable oil companies and the wealthiest Americans.

The president is expected to call for continuing a payroll tax cut for workers and jobless benefits for the unemployed. Some Republicans oppose extending the payroll tax cut, calling it an unproven job creator that will only add to the nation's massive debt. The tax cut extension is set to expire Jan. 1.

Republicans also cite huge federal budget deficits in expressing opposition to vast new spending on jobs programs.

But Obama said lawmakers need to act—and act quickly. "The time for Washington games is over. The time for action is now," he told a supportive union crowd that Detroit police said was in the thousands. The event at a General Motors Corp. parking lot in the shadow of the automaker's headquarters building had the sound and feel of a campaign event, with the union audience breaking into chants of "Four More Years" throughout the president's 25-minute speech.

US recession fears savage world financial markets

LONDON (AP)—World stock markets took a beating Monday over fears that the U.S. economy was heading back into a recession just as the European debt crisis was heating up and the eurozone's economic indicators were slumping. Any troubles in the world's largest economy cast a long shadow over the markets, and a report Friday that the U.S. economy failed to add any new jobs in August caused European and Asian stock markets to sink sharply Monday.

But the news from Europe was also discouraging. Wall Street, which was closed Monday due to the Labor Day holiday, braced for losses Tuesday after the yields in so-called peripheral eurozone countries—Greece, Italy and Spain—rose sharply against those of Germany, whose bonds are widely considered a safe haven.

Although retail sales in the 17-nation eurozone rose unexpectedly in July, a survey of the services sector Monday showed a slowdown across the continent for the fifth consecutive month. The purchasing managers' index for the eurozone showed the services sector was still growing—unlike the manufacturing sector—but only barely. That will add pressure on the European Central Bank to keep interest rates on hold when it meets this week. "There's so much uncertainty, so much fear, that investors don't know what to do," said David Kotok, chairman and chief investment officer at Cumberland Advisors. "I don't remember the last time stocks were so cheap and nobody wanted them."

Investors were also shaken by signs that the Italian government's commitment to its austerity program is wavering. Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government has backtracked on some deficit-cutting measures, prompting EU officials to urge Italy to stick to its promised plan.

The difference in interest rates between the Greek and benchmark German 10-year bonds, known as the spread, spiraled to new records on Monday, topping 17.3 percentage points. Yields on the Greek bonds were above 18 percent.

Mario Draghi, the incoming chief of the European Central Bank, told a conference in Paris that among the common currency's problems was a lack of coordinated fiscal policies and that the solution was more integration.

He dismissed the idea of eurobonds—debt issued jointly by the eurozone countries. Some have argued this would help weaker countries borrow more easily because they wouldn't have to pay such high interest rates. But stable countries like Germany would likely see their rates rise.

ConocoPhillips struggling with China oil spill

SHANGHAI (AP)—The oil spills from offshore wells operated by ConocoPhillips in China's Bohai Bay are posing political and technical challenges for the oil company far messier than the crude and drilling mud seeping from the seabed.

The company said Monday that it had complied with a government order to suspend all drilling, water injection and production at the affected Penglai 19-3 oil field, one of China's biggest.

Operations are currently stopped at 180 producing wells and 51 injecting wells, for a total of 231 wells, said a statement by Houston, Texas-based ConocoPhillips, which operates the field in a venture with state-owned China National Offshore Oil Corp.

CNOOC, which owns 51 percent of the venture, said the suspension of production in Penglai 19-3 would reduce output by 40,000 barrels a day, in addition to the 22,000 barrels a day lost with the shutdown of the two wells where the spills occurred.

For such big oil companies, the loss is not a major blow, though for ConocoPhillips, Penglai 19-3 is its largest project in China, noted Thomas Grieder, analyst for Asia-Pacific energy at IHS Global Insight.

The spills began in early June and have unleashed a flood of criticism inside China over how ConocoPhillips has handled the cleanup. The State Oceanic Administration rejected the company's assertion that it had met an Aug. 31 deadline to completely clear up any damage and prevent further seeps.

Chinese maritime authorities facing pressure from fisheries and environmentalists to minimize further damage to the already heavily polluted Bohai appear to have lost patience with the prolonged effort to staunch the oil seeps.

"ConocoPhillips has not been able to address this problem for two months and the Chinese authorities are losing face. It's kind of an inevitable reaction to something that's been going on a while," Grieder said.

Regardless of the tensions provoked by the spills, China is relying ever more heavily on foreign partners for the technology it needs to tap difficult to exploit deepwater oil reserves, said Grieder.

According to ConocoPhillips, the spills released about 700 barrels of oil into Bohai Bay and 2,500 barrels of mineral oil-based drilling mud, which is used for lubrication, onto the seabed. All but a small fraction of that oil and mud has been recovered, and the small amounts still emerging are from earlier seeps that have been shifting under layers of sand on the seabed, it says.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil falls to below $86 after weak US jobs report

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices extended losses to below $86 a barrel Monday in Asia as a dismal August jobs report suggested that a weak U.S. economy will lessen demand for crude. Benchmark oil for October delivery was down 65 cents to $85.80 at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Crude fell $2.48 to settle at $86.45 on Friday. In London, Brent crude for October delivery was down 75 cents at $111.58 on the ICE Futures exchange.

Asia stocks dragged down by selloff in Europe

BANGKOK (AP)—Asian markets opened lower Tuesday after fears of a worsening global economy sparked a session of free-falling losses in Europe. Oil prices fell to below $84 a barrel in Asia as investor fears of a recession in developed countries sent equities and commodities lower. The dollar was higher against the euro but lower against the yen. Japan's Nikkei 225 index dropped 1.2 percent to 8,676.12. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was 1 percent down at 19,420.47. Australia's S&P ASX 200 lost 1.1 percent to 4,095.50. South Korea's Kospi index was 0.6 percent down at 1,774.73.

Murdoch firm to sell its London site

LONDON (AP)—Rupert Murdoch's News International says it will sell its complex in the east London area of Wapping. The company says it will relocate to another area in east London. In Monday's statement, the company says that "current market conditions" led to a decision "not to proceed with remodeling the Wapping site." The scandal-hit British newspaper arm of Murdoch's global empire has been shaken by allegations of illegal behavior at its now-defunct News of the World tabloid.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
11,240.30	1,173.97	2,480.33
-253.31	-30.45	-65.71
-2.20%	-2.53%	-2.58%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9480	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7928	Philippine Peso	42.2850
British Pound	0.6210	Indian Rupee	46.0850	Singapore Dollar	1.2081
Canadian Dollar	0.9899	Indonesian Rupiah	8,567.50	South Korean Won	1,074.194
Chinese Yuan	6.3903	Japanese Yen	76.7350	Swiss Franc	0.7921
Euro	0.7098	Malaysian Ringgit	2.9825	Taiwan Dollar	29.0870
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2033	Thailand Baht	29.9190

Nation

Lee's remnants spawn Ga. twisters, drown Miss. man

ATLANTA (AP)—The slow-moving remnants of Tropical Storm Lee dumped a torrent of rain across the South on Monday and whipped up twisters in Georgia as the storm system pushed farther inland. One death was reported, and at least one person was injured.

In Mississippi, a man was swept away by floodwaters after trying to cross a swollen creek, the first death caused by flooding or winds from Lee. The system was sweeping through Alabama and pushing into Georgia, where the suspected tornadoes sent trees falling into homes and injured at least one person.

■ ■ ■ ■

MIAMI (AP)—Hurricane Katia has grown to a Category 3 storm as it moves across the Atlantic Ocean.

On Monday afternoon, Katia's maximum sustained winds had increased to 116 mph (185 kph). That makes Katia a major hurricane, and some additional strengthening is expected later in the day.

Hurricane specialist Todd Kimberlain says it's looking less likely that Katia will hit land but that wind from the storm could still affect the U.S. East Coast as it moves north. Kimberlain also says the Mid-Atlantic and New England regions should still keep an eye on Katia.

Katia is centered about 495 miles (795 kilometers) south of Bermuda and is moving northwest near 12 mph (19 kph).

■ ■ ■ ■

Lt. Jay Baker of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office northwest of Atlanta said he'd gotten scattered reports of homes damaged by falling trees, but couldn't say how many. One person was taken to the hospital after being hit by falling debris, but his injuries were not life-threatening.

In Woodstock, Mickey Swims and his wife hid in their home's basement during the storm.

"I heard it and saw the trees go around and around," Swims said. "I knew when I heard it that if it touched down, it was going to be bad."

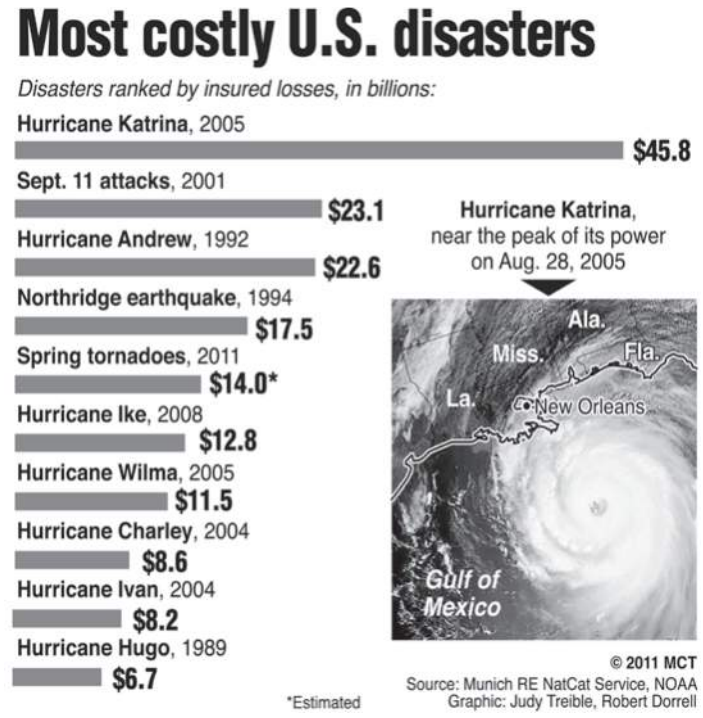
Swims owns the Dixie Speedway, and he estimated his racetrack had up to $500,000 worth of damage. That includes about 2,000 feet of chain-link fence uprooted from its concrete base, walls blown out of a bathrooms and concession stands and tractor-trailer trucks turned into mangled messes.

AP

A family wades through the high water left by Tropical Storm Lee near Coast Guard Row in lower Dulac, La. on Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011.

In areas of Louisiana and Mississippi that took the brunt of the storm over the weekend, at least 16,000 people remained without power as of Monday afternoon.

The man who died in Mississippi, 57-year-old John Howard Anderson Jr., had been in a car with two other people trying to cross a rain-swollen creek on Sunday night. Tishomingo County Coroner Mack Wilemon said Anderson was outside of the car and had been thrown a rope to be rescued, but he couldn't hold on.



White House: Irene's federal cost $1.5 billion

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House estimated on Monday that Hurricane Irene will cost federal taxpayers $1.5 billion in disaster relief, further ballooning a government account that was already the focus of fresh partisan friction between President Barack Obama and Congress.

The preliminary estimate, released by White House budget director Jacob Lew, is on top of $5.2 billion needed for other recent disasters, including tornadoes that leveled much of Joplin, Mo. Lew said the $1.5 billion should last through next year.

The Obama administration has said last month's debt ceiling deal with Congress allows the government to pay for disaster spending by borrowing, which increases federal deficits. That is a long-time practice for financing emergencies. The House's No. 2 Republican, Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia, has said disaster spending should be offset by cutting other parts of the budget. In a blog he posted announcing the initial estimate, Lew said the administration would work with Congress to finance the disaster spending but he showed no sign that the administration would back down.

"We are one country. A disaster in one corner is felt by Americans all across our land. That is why when it comes to taking care of our neighbors in need, we will not let politics get in the way and will do what is right to help them recover and rebuild," Lew wrote.

The cost estimate comes as Congress is returning from its summer recess. A Senate Appropriations Committee subcommittee, headed by Democrats, is scheduled to meet Tuesday to consider a spending bill that includes disaster aid.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has less than $800 million in its coffers to pay for help needed before Oct. 1, when the government's new budget year begins. Because the money is so short, some rebuilding projects have already been delayed to provide Irene's victims with essentials like food, water and housing.

Irene raked the eastern U.S. from the Carolinas to Maine beginning on Aug. 28, causing over 40 deaths, destroying homes, washing out roads, pounding beachfront communities and flooding towns in Vermont and upstate New York. Damage is expected to total in the billions, but federal aid is not for expenses covered by private insurance.

It's time for flu shots, and some may get a tiny needle

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's flu vaccine time again—and some lucky shot-seekers will find that the needle has shrunk.

The first flu shot that works with a less-scary skin prick instead of an inch-long needle is hitting the market this fall. Sorry kids, this option so far is just for adults, and it's so brand-new that it will take some searching to find a dose.

But there are plenty of the other varieties—standard shots, a special high-dose shot for seniors and the needle-free squirt-in-the-nose option—to go around. At least 166 million doses of flu vaccine are expected to be produced this year.

The big question is whether people will get it. Usually each year's flu vaccine varies from the previous versions as different influenza strains emerge. This year, the vaccine's a duplicate because the three flu strains that sickened people last winter still are circulating.

Scientific studies aren't clear about how much a person's immunity wanes over a year, although it varies by age and overall health. But federal health officials and the American Academy of Pediatrics weighed the evidence and say don't skip this year's vaccination—it's the only way to be sure your immune system remains revved enough for the best protection.

"You're not going to be able to count on that vaccine protecting you throughout a second season," says Dr. Lisa Grohskopf of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A yearly vaccination now is recommended for virtually everyone, except babies younger than 6 months and people with severe allergies to the eggs used to make it. Last year, 49 percent of children and 41 percent of adults were vaccinated.

Say you never catch the flu? You could be a carrier, unknowingly spreading the misery when you feel little more than a sniffle, says Dr. William Schaffner of Vanderbilt University, president of the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases.

"You should be vaccinated each and every year to ensure both you're protected and you're giving the maximum protection to people around you," he says.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Teen loses legs as she tries to hop train

LONGMONT, Colo. (AP)—A 17-year-old Colorado State University student lost both her legs when she tried to hop aboard a freight train and slipped underneath the moving train on Monday, police said. One of three males with the student was briefly dragged by the train but suffered only minor injuries. The accident occurred in the northern Colorado town of Longmont shortly after 1 p.m. when the group tried to board the northbound Burlington Northern Santa Fe train, police said. Train speed limits through Longmont are 25 mph. It wasn't known exactly how fast the train was going at the time of the accident.

Wildfire destroys nearly 500 homes in Texas

BASTROP, Texas (AP)—A roaring wildfire raced unchecked Monday through rain-starved farm and ranchland in Central Texas, destroying nearly 500 homes during a rapid advance fanned in part by howling winds from the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee. At least 5,000 people were forced from their homes in Bastrop County about 25 miles east of Austin, many of them fearing the worst while spending the night in emergency shelters. Huge clouds of smoke soared into the sky and hung over downtown Bastrop, a town of about 6,000 people along the Colorado River.

Giffords returns to Houston after visit to Ariz.

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords has returned to Houston following a brief weekend visit to Arizona. She arrived in Tucson on Friday evening with her husband, retired astronaut and Navy Capt. Mark Kelly. Her spokesman, Mark Kimble, confirmed to The Associated Press that the Arizona lawmaker departed Monday. Kimble called the weekend trip very uneventful for Giffords as she recovers from a head wound suffered Jan. 8. A gunman opened fire outside a Tucson-area grocery store as she met with constituents.

Violence amid revelry at NY West Indian Day Parade

NEW YORK (AP)—A shooting a few blocks off the route of the annual West Indian Day Parade, scarred by violence at least twice in the last several years, left a police officer wounded and a person dead. The officer was hit Monday night in one of his arms and was hospitalized but was expected to survive. At least three other people were hit in the shooting, said police, who didn't reveal further details. The fire department said a civilian died at the scene.

Asia

Filipinos hunt second killer crocodile after 1-ton catch

AP

In this photo taken Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011, Mayor Cox Elorde of Bunawan township, Agusan del Sur Province, pretends to measure a huge crocodile which was captured by residents and crocodile farm staff along a creek in Bunawan late Saturday in southern Philippines.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—After capturing a one-ton crocodile that could be one of the biggest caught alive in the world, officials said Tuesday that they were hunting for an even bigger beast that may be lurking in the creeks of a remote southern Philippine region.

Villagers and veteran hunters ensnared a 20-foot (6.1-meter) saltwater crocodile over the weekend after a three-week hunt along a creek in Bunawan township in remote Agusan del Sur province, where terrified villagers have reported at least one deadly attack by the huge reptiles.

The crocodile—weighing 2,370 pounds (1,075 kilograms)—was the biggest to be caught alive in the Philippines in recent years. Wildlife officials were trying to confirm whether it was the largest such catch in the world, said Theresa Mundita Lim of the government's Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau.

The Guinness World Records lists a saltwater crocodile caught in Australia as the largest crocodile in captivity, measuring 17 feet 11.75 inches (5.48 meters). Saltwater crocodiles can live for more than 100 years and grow to 23 feet (7 meters).

Relieved villagers in Bunawan threw a fiesta to celebrate the late-Saturday capture of the crocodile, which had to be pulled by rope by about 100 people from the creek to a clearing, where a crane lifted it onto a truck. Its snout was tied shut with nylon cables and a net.

"It was like a feast, so many villagers turned up," Bunawan Mayor Edwin Cox Elorde said.

Wildlife official Ron Sumilier, who has hunted "nuisance crocodiles" for 20 years and led the team behind the capture in Bunawan, said a search was under way for a possibly larger crocodile he and villagers have seen roaming in the farming town's marshy outskirts.

"There is a bigger one and it could be the one creating problems," Sumilier told The Associated Press by telephone from Bunawan, about 515 miles (830 kilometers) southeast of the Philippines' capital, Manila.

"The villagers were saying 10 percent of their fear was gone because of the first capture," Sumilier said. "But there is still the other 90 percent to take care of."

Backed by five village hunters he has trained, Sumilier has laid 20 steel-cable traps with animal carcass as bait along the creek where the first crocodile was caught and in a nearby vast marshland.

Sumilier said he found no human remains when he induced the captured crocodile to vomit.

He said he was also summoned by Bunawan officials two years ago after a huge crocodile attacked and ate a child from a capsized boat in the marshland. The killer crocodile was not found at the time.

Elorde said he plans to make the captured crocodile "the biggest star" in a future ecotourism park that will be built to increase awareness of villagers and potential tourists on the vital role the dreaded reptiles play in the ecosystem.

Philippine laws strictly prohibit civilians from killing the endangered crocodiles, with violators facing up to 12 years in prison and a fine of 1 million pesos ($24,000).

The world's most endangered freshwater variety, *crocodylus mindorensis*, is found only in the Philippines, where just about 250 are known to be in the wild.

About 1,000 of the larger saltwater type, or *crocodylus porosus*, like the one captured in Bunawan, are scattered mostly in the country's southern swamplands, wildlife official Glen Rebong said.

Australian man claims to have bomb in standoff

SYDNEY (AP)—Australian police cordoned off a Sydney building Tuesday in a tense standoff with a man who claimed to have a bomb, smashed a window and issued threats from a lawyer's office where he holed up with his teenage daughter.

The daughter appeared to be well, and police spent several hours trying to negotiate with the man, who claimed to have explosives in his backpack and appeared to be in his 50s, Police Assistant Commissioner Denis Clifford said. Their identities were not immediately disclosed.

Police said the man issued several demands but declined to reveal details, and said they had not yet established his motive. They evacuated the building, kept onlookers 100 yards (meter) away and were seen entering with at least one automatic weapon. Witnesses said other buildings also were evacuated.

"We're working through those demands with him and we're doing the best we can to secure a peaceful resolution," Clifford told reporters. "The fact that he's there and he's made certain threats is obviously of concern to us."

Australian broadcasters showed footage of the man looking from a second-floor window shirtless and wearing the kind of wig worn by judges and lawyers in Australian courts. At one point he spat on the wig.

He later swung a glass bottle like a hammer to smash a plate-sized hole in the office window. He yelled through the hole and threw the bottle, then a telephone handset, which was left dangling by its cord.

Clifford said the girl, who was apparently in her early teens, appeared to be doing well.

"We don't believe there's any specific threat against the girl, but obviously we'd like to secure her release," he said. "The concern is that she's in a situation where we've got somebody with a backpack—we don't know exactly what's in that backpack so we have to assume that what he's saying is true."

Air drops bring aid to typhoon-isolated Japanese

TOKYO (AP)—Helicopters began ferrying supplies Tuesday to communities cut off from the outside world by Japan's worst typhoon in seven years. The storm has left at least 37 dead and 54 missing in a nation still struggling to recover from its devastating tsunami just six months ago.

Aid-laden helicopters descended on towns in the hardest-hit areas as police, firefighters and soldiers mobilized to clear roads so that they could distribute food, medicine and other assistance to communities fending for themselves since Typhoon Talas made initial landfall on Saturday.

Japan's Kyodo news agency reported that dozens of hamlets in central Japan were still cut off, primarily because of flooding, landslides or other damage to access roads. Officials said they did not have an overall number for the stranded.

More than 3,000 remained in evacuation centers, however.

As Talas approached Japan, nearly a half million people were advised to evacuate. It then dumped record amounts of rain on central and western Japan and lashed wide swaths of the country with destructive winds before being downgraded to a tropical storm.

Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency said 37 deaths had been confirmed and 54 people were still missing Tuesday. Japanese media reported at least 39 people had died.

The path of the typhoon did not take it over the tsunami-devastated northeast coast, where nearly 21,000 people were killed or are missing after the March 11 disaster.

But as the eye of the slow-moving storm hovered offshore in the Sea of Japan on Tuesday, heavy rains began to fall anew on the northern island of Hokkaido, prompting evacuation advisories for hundreds of households as rivers began to swell.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Strong quake hits west Indonesia; at least 1 dead

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A powerful earthquake jolted the western Indonesian island of Sumatra early Tuesday, killing a 12-year-old boy and sending people streaming from their houses and hotels in panic. There was no threat of a tsunami. Hundreds of patients from at least one hospital had to be evacuated, some in wheelchairs or with infusion drips still attached to their arms. The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude-6.6 quake was centered 60 miles (100 kilometers) southwest of the city of Medan at a depth of 62 miles (110 kilometers).

Thai citizen accused of insulting king on Facebook

BANGKOK (AP)—Police have arrested a Thai computer programmer on charges of insulting the nation's revered king on a Facebook page, his lawyer said Monday. The charges carry a penalty of up to 15 years in prison. Surapak Puchaisaeng, a 40-year-old Bangkok resident, was also accused of violating the Computer Crime Act for the alleged defamatory comments, his lawyer Lomrak Meemuean said. Surapak denied insulting 83-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Police confiscated his desktop and laptop computers, his lawyer said.

Eek! Mouse in pantry halts Nepal flight to Bangkok

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Airline officials say flight attendants spotted a mouse in the pantry of a Boeing 757, prompting Nepal Airlines to cancel a Bangkok-bound flight, evacuate passengers and tow the jet to a hangar to hunt for the rodent. Airline spokesman Raju K.C. says the mouse is believed to have boarded the plane at the Katmandu airport Monday through a food catering truck. He says the animal darted out of the pantry toward the back of the plane, where it remained unnoticed by the few passengers who had boarded. The cabin crew unsuccessfully hunted the mouse and then decided to cancel the flight and perform a more thorough search.

World

Libya rebels hold off on attacking Gadhafi bastion

TARHOUNA, Libya (AP)—Thousands of rebel fighters closed in around one of Libya's last pro-Gadhafi strongholds Monday, but held back on a final assault in hopes of avoiding a bloody battle for the town of Bani Walid.

The standoff came as rebel leaders in Tripoli said Libya's transition to democratic rule would begin with a "declaration of liberation" that was unlikely to come before Gadhafi's forces last strongholds were defeated and the fugitive former dictator had been captured.

The declaration would mark the start of an eight-month deadline for Libya's transitional council to arrange the vote for a national assembly, and eventually to a constitution and general elections.

"When the clock starts ticking on those eight months remains to be seen," rebel spokesman Jalal el-Gallal said, adding it wasn't yet clear how liberation would be defined.

Special U.N. envoy Ian Martin, meanwhile, said the United Nations was helping the rebel leadership prepare for its elections, stressing the country faces immense political hurdles after nearly 42 years of dictatorial rule.

"The U.N. is certainly ready to move very fast to bring in the electoral expertise that can assist the authorities," he said at a news conference in Tripoli with Ahmed Darrad, the interior minister.

The rebels most immediate concern is Bani Walid, a desert town some 90 miles (140 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli, where they say a small but heavily armed force of pro-Gadhafi fighters—at least some of them high-ranking members of his ousted regime—have taken up defensive positions.

A rebel fighter sleeps next to a goat's carcass hanging from an anti-aircraft gun at a checkpoint between Tarhouna and Bani Walid in Libya Monday, Sept. 5, 2011. AP

The loyalists are spreading fear in the town to keep other residents from surrendering, the rebels say, telling people the rebels will rape their wives and daughters.

The regime loyalists "know if they hand themselves in, they will be punished. They are trying hard to mess things up, to drag other people with them into a battle," said rebel Col. Abdullah Hussein Salem.

Most of the country has welcomed the uprising that swept Gadhafi from power, though rebel forces—backed by NATO airstrikes—have yet to capture loyalist bastions like Bani Walid, Gadhafi's hometown of Sirte and the isolated southern town of Sabha.

Gadhafi has been on the run since losing control of his capital last month, though the rebels say at least two of his sons had been in Bani Walid in recent days. Moussa Ibrahim, Gadhafi's spokesman and one of his key aides, was still believed to be in the town, rebel officials said. Talks broke down over the weekend after Ibrahim insisted the rebels put down their weapons before entering the town.

The rebels have extended to Saturday a deadline for the surrender of Sirte and other loyalist areas, though some rebel officials have said they could attack Bani Walid sooner because it has so many prominent loyalists.

For the most part, though, the rebels are urging patience, saying they want to avoid a bitter inter-tribal fight that could create lasting divisions.

"We won't go inside Bani Walid unless the Warfala tribe invites us," said rebel commander Ismail al-Gitani, referring to the town's main tribe. "The Warfala have to lead us into Bani Walid. Hopefully no one will be shot. We don't want to use our weapons. But if the Gadhafi loyalists shoot at us, of course we will return fire."

The Warfala are believed to be about 1-million strong, one-sixth of Libya's population. Rebel commanders have said they were willing to hold more talks about the town's surrender, though apparently no negotiations were held Monday. Rebel negotiator Abdullah Kanshil added that the rebels were talking to individual families in the town about their urgent needs for water and food.

Airstrikes hit Yemeni province seized by militants

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemeni warplanes launched airstrikes in a southern province overrun by Islamic militants, killing at least seven civilians and a dozen militants Monday in attacks on hideouts, including a mosque and a hospital, a witness and officials said.

A military official said at least 12 militants were killed in airstrikes in eastern Abyan province. Another local official said dozens of militants were killed in the north of the province.

Fighters with suspected links to Yemen's al-Qaida offshoot took over towns in Abyan, including the provincial capital and another major town, Jaar, in April, taking advantage of turmoil that grew out of massive demonstrations demanding the resignation of longtime President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

In June, Saleh was wounded in a bomb attack on his palace and departed for Saudi Arabia for treatment. He is still there, but he insists he will return home, defying international demands that he step down. The anti-Saleh protests and growing political disarray have created a security vacuum in southern Yemen, where al-Qaida-linked militants are battling the military for control. Western nations view al-Qaida's branch in Yemen as one of the group's most violent and dangerous.

A witness said Jaar's main hospital was taken over by militants who started treating wounded fighters there and preventing civilians and residents from being admitted. The hospital was hit three times and destroyed, witness Walid Mohammed told The Associated Press.

"The third airstrike that targeted the hospital totally demolished it," he said.

Al-Qaida-linked militants also took over the Hamza mosque in Jaar. In an apparently mistaken strike, at least one warplane hit a mosque about half a mile (one kilometer) away, shattering one of its walls and killing seven civilians, Mohammed said.

Mohammed Hussein Nasser, a local government official, said dozens of people had been killed and wounded in the strikes on the town. He did not provide exact figures.

A secondary school that was used as a field hospital by militants was also hit by airstrike, he said.

The Yemeni air force also bombed the security headquarters but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Mubarak trial witness: No order to shoot protesters

CAIRO (AP)—The prosecution's first witness in the trial of ousted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak startled the court in a stormy session Monday, testifying that police were not ordered to fire on protesters in Cairo's Tahrir Square in a contradiction of the prosecutors' central claim.

The police general's statement could damage the prosecution's case that Mubarak and his security chief gave the green light to police to use lethal force to crush the uprising, during which at least 850 people were killed.

Prosecution lawyers were visibly stunned by the testimony of the witness, Gen. Hussein Moussa, and angrily accused him of changing his story from the affadavit he initially gave prosecutors.

Many Egyptians have been crying out for the conviction—and even execution—of the 83-year-old Mubarak to avenge not only the deaths but also the corruption, police abuse and other oppression during his nearly 30-year rule. If prosecutors fail to win a guilty verdict or end up with a conviction but a light sentence, there could be a heavy public backlash.

The 10-hour session was raucous, with both supporters and opponents of the ex-president in the audience.

Relatives of slain protesters threw water bottles at the defendants cage where the ailing Mubarak lay in a hospital gurney, as he has in previous sessions since the trial began Aug. 3. They shouted, "Mubarak, you traitor" and "The people want to execute the ousted one" before court guards quieted the situation.

At one point, a Mubarak loyalist held up a poster of the former leader, prompting furious arguments between the two sides' lawyers that devolved into shouted insults then into outright fist-fights. One lawyer beat another with his shoes until the judge called a brief adjournment to calm things down.

WORLD BRIEFS

Haitians protest alleged attack by UN peacekeepers

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Several hundred Haitians demonstrated Monday in support of an 18-year-old man who says he was sexually assaulted by peacekeepers from Uruguay on a U.N. base along the southern coast of Haiti. The alleged attack occurred on July 20 but only became public last week when a video taken by cell phone was circulated and the United Nations announced an investigation. The Uruguayan military has called the incident a prank that got out of hand and says a preliminary U.N. investigation shows no evidence of rape.

Syrian troops make arrests in manhunt for defector

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian soldiers raided homes and made arrests Monday in a manhunt for a provincial attorney general who appeared on video last week saying he had defected from President Bashar Assad's regime to protest a violent government crackdown on dissent, activists said. Also Monday, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross said the regime had allowed ICRC to visit Damascus Central Prison, the first such visit during the 5-month-old uprising.

Ex-French leader Chirac can skip corruption trial

PARIS (AP)—Former French President Jacques Chirac won't have to attend his long-awaited corruption trial, a judge ruled Monday, after Chirac's lawyers said the 78-year-old is suffering from severe memory lapses. Judge Dominique Pauthe said he took into account a written appeal and four-page medical report sent Friday by Chirac's defense team, and decided that the trial will be allowed to go ahead without the ex-president in court.

Focus

AP

This Aug. 10, 2011 photo provided by Sam Kittner shows Gillian Caldwell and Louis Spitzer with their children Tess and Finn at their home in Takoma Park, Md.

The day that 'changed everything'

By PAULINE ARRILLAGA
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Gone is the brownstone in Brooklyn with the tiny garden but room for little else, and 10-hour days devoted to building careers. Gone are the social lives filled with close but mostly childless friends, and a biological clock that seemed on snooze.

For Gillian Caldwell and Louis Spitzer, these things disappeared along with the towers, when terror struck home on a September morning 10 years ago.

Now, a decade later in the lives of this couple, there is a Queen Anne Victorian in a close-knit Maryland suburb with a yard big enough for a dog and seven chickens. And days filled with soccer, karate and school. And lives keenly focused on family and, most of all, love.

And, of course, there are Tess and Finley, their children, who embody a series of life changes brought on by a tragedy that moved their parents to reprioritize and adjust.

"It was like a total reset," Caldwell says of the 9/11 attacks, an experience so traumatizing and disorienting that she and Spitzer chose to dramatically transform themselves—and the direction of their lives. It gave her "a clarity about who and how I wanted to be in the world."

Americans still think of 9/11 as the day that "changed everything," but how many of us did it change in any sort of lasting way?

For a time we may have felt more patriotic and united, more vulnerable and wary, more appreciative of life, more concerned over the state of the world, but then we settled in to our "new normal" and went back to routines modified for us—not by us.

When asked how the attacks changed us, one commenter on a Yahoo message board replied: "9/11 didn't change my life, it changed the world."

But some did set out to change their own lives. Some moved. Quit jobs. Started foundations. Found God.

In Texas, an estranged daughter reconnected with her parents.

In Rhode Island, a high school junior traded medical school for the Air Force Academy.

In Pennsylvania, a shy hardware store owner volunteered to retell, week after week, the story of one of the doomed flights.

And in a brownstone in Brooklyn, literally within days of the attacks, a New York couple decided to have the children they knew they wanted one day, because 9/11 made "one day" suddenly seem too far off.

■ ■ ■ ■

It was a life-is-too-short moment for us all, a shock to the system that forced us to stop, take stock and think about what mattered most.

After 9/11, many needed to act on what they were feeling by adapting their lives in big ways and small. Some wanted something good to come from evil, or needed to change to help themselves heal, or simply felt a responsibility to rethink the direction of their lives.

"I felt the need to earn the rest of my life by serving," says Nicholas Mercurio, who was a high school junior in Providence, Rhode Island, on his way from home room to physics when a classmate ran up to him and said, "They blew up the World Trade Center."

Just 16 years old, Mercurio had known exactly what he wanted to do in life—until that moment. Before 9/11, he planned to become a cardiovascular surgeon and was readying college applications to Harvard and Columbia. After 9/11, he was consumed with thoughts of service and sacrifice and what it all meant. Watching a football game on television, he saw the men and women in military uniforms on the field, and felt a conviction he'd never had about becoming a doctor.

He decided, "I could continue on the current path of my life and not sacrifice anything and have a pretty good life. But what would that feel like?"

He didn't know anyone killed in the attacks, but that didn't matter. After speaking with his parents and his grandfather, a World War II vet, Mercurio said goodbye to Harvard and Columbia and applied to three of the military service academies.

Ten years later, he is a first lieutenant in the Air Force who returned this summer from a yearlong deployment in Afghanistan. At 26, he is no longer that bookish kid who loved microscopes and mock trials. Mercurio changed when he rerouted the course of his life.

"I'm more confident. I carry myself differently. I became a much more self-assured person," he says.

He's seen things men his age, or any, just shouldn't—and yet he has no regrets. He can't even picture himself as a doctor now.

"When I'm in uniform in airports, at least a handful of people will come up and thank me. I don't really know what to say."

But Mercurio knows how that makes him feel. "I'm proud."

It's difficult to know just how common, or rare, stories like his are. Five years after the terrorist attacks, a USA Today/Gallup poll found that only one American in five felt they'd permanently changed their lives because of the events of that day.

AP

In this Jan. 15, 2011 photo made available by the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Nicholas Mercurio, left, stands with U.S. Army Capt. Ryan Oliver of Atlanta, Ga. in Kunar Province, Afghanistan.

Yet they are out there, these tales of transformation—on the Internet, in local newspapers, in a new book focused on the very idea of post-9/11 change.

Wendy Stark Healy wrote "Life is Too Short: Stories of Transformation and Renewal after 9/11" after being inspired by a pastor who spent five months volunteering at ground zero and later became a social worker and a counselor after seeking counseling himself to heal from the horrors he'd seen. The book features the Rev. Tom Taylor and 12 other people who changed direction after 9/11.

There's the financial consultant who became CEO of the September 11th Families' Association. The Wall Street trader who, after losing 17 friends on 9/11, moved his family to a coastal community in South Carolina for a more serene life. The fashion designer who became a disaster response expert after distributing supplies in the days after 9/11. The aspiring actress who became a Buddhist and a spiritual healer.

"People said here's the 'aha' moment. I don't even know if it happened that way for some of these folks, but they all had a little caveat," says Healy, recalling one person who told her, "I no longer take hellos and goodbyes for granted, because when I say goodbye to somebody I realize they may not come back."

Healy herself was inspired to write this, her first book, because of the attacks and the many people she met afterward when her own life changed. She went from writing annual company reports to working for Lutheran Disaster Response of New York.

"It's like something stirred in us," she says. "How can we not be changed?"

Susan Russo of Pearland, Texas, was moved to reconnect with her parents, from whom she'd been estranged for years after a sibling died. Now, she calls them every day and visits twice a year. "I told myself I wanted to know my mom and dad before they died," says the 53-year-old administrative assistant.

Sept. 11, she says, "completely changed my life."

Karl Glessner, who lives near the field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where United Flight 93 went down, was prompted to carve out two hours every Saturday to serve as a volunteer at the memorial. The 60-year-old hardware store owner tries to answer whatever questions visitors might have.

"They want to know what I experienced when the plane crashed," he says. "I'm getting used to it by now. ... For a shy, quiet fellow like me it wasn't the easiest thing in the world."

"I'm changed," he says, "but I was kind of dragged along kicking and screaming. ... Nobody here wanted it."

Still, Glessner won't quit the work. Though hard, "it's one of the best ... and most rewarding things I do."

Lawrence Calhoun, a professor of psychology at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, co-wrote a book about what he calls post-traumatic growth, examining how and why some people seek out change in the wake of tragedy. A trauma such as 9/11 challenges our core beliefs, he says, sometimes leading individuals to confront questions not previously examined.

"Most of us do not go around thinking, 'What am I going to do for the rest of my life?'" says Calhoun. But a "confrontation with mortality or potential major loss," as on 9/11, "may represent a place where people focus on fundamental priorities."

As Healy said of the individuals she wrote about: "These people ... got the chance to change their lives. Three thousand people never got that chance. When you think of things that way, it's

See THE DAY on Next Page

Campus Life

Many US schools adding iPads, trimming textbooks

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—For incoming freshmen at western Connecticut's suburban Brookfield High School, hefting a backpack weighed down with textbooks is about to give way to tapping out notes and flipping electronic pages on a glossy iPad tablet computer.

A few hours away, every student at Burlington High School near Boston will also start the year with new school-issued iPads, each loaded with electronic textbooks and other online resources in place of traditional bulky texts.

While iPads have rocketed to popularity on many college campuses since Apple Inc. introduced the device in spring 2010, many public secondary schools this fall will move away from textbooks in favor of the lightweight tablet computers.

Apple officials say they know of more than 600 districts that have launched what are called "one-to-one" programs, in which at least one classroom of students is getting iPads for each student to use throughout the school day.

Nearly two-thirds of them have begun since July, according to Apple.

New programs are being announced on a regular basis, too. As recently as Wednesday, Kentucky's education commissioner and the superintendent of schools in Woodford County, Ky., said that Woodford County High will become the state's first public high school to give each of its 1,250 students an iPad.

At Burlington High in suburban Boston, principal Patrick Larkin calls the $500 iPads a better long-term investment than textbooks, though he said the school will still use traditional texts in some courses if suitable electronic programs aren't yet available.

"I don't want to generalize because I don't want to insult people who are working hard to make those resources," Larkin said of textbooks, "but they're pretty much outdated the minute they're printed and certainly by the time they're delivered. The bottom line is that the iPads will give our kids a chance to use much more relevant materials."

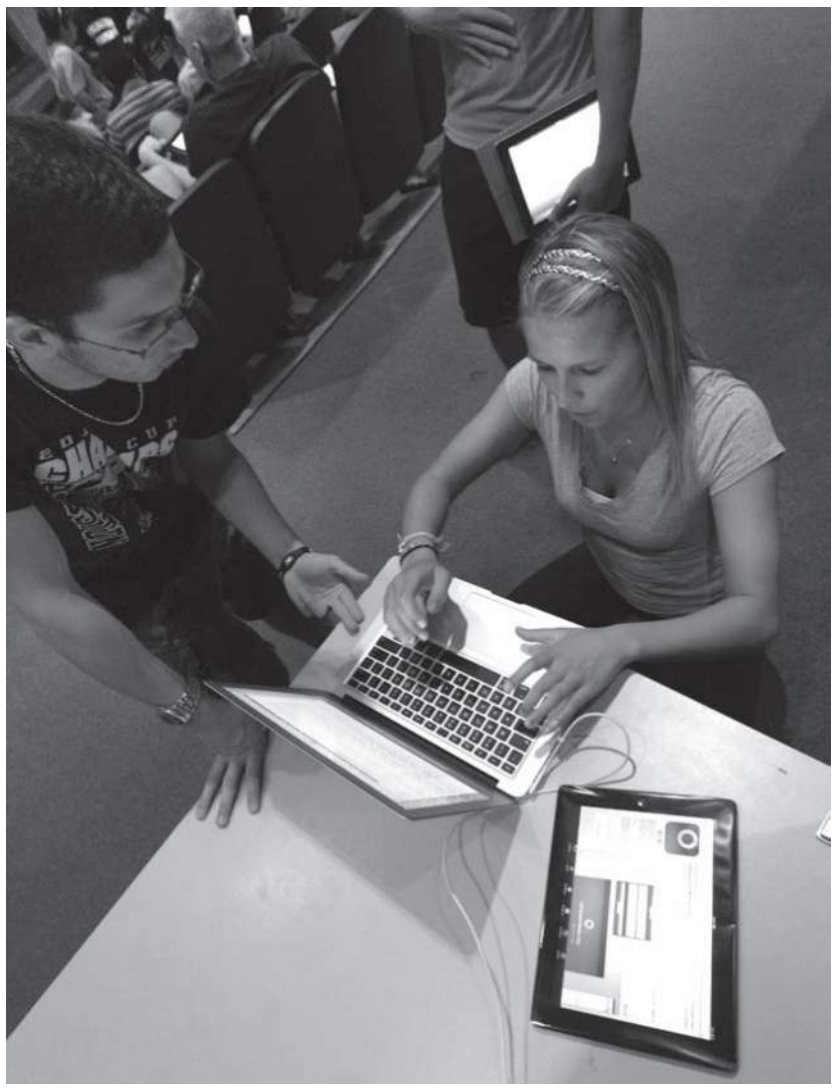
The trend has not been limited to wealthy suburban districts. New York City, Chicago and many other urban districts also are buying large numbers of iPads. The iPads generally cost districts between $500 and $600, depending on what accessories and service plans are purchased.

By comparison, Brookfield High in Connecticut estimates it spends at least that much yearly on every student's textbooks, not including graphing calculators, dictionaries and other accessories they can get on the iPads.

Educators say the sleek, flat tablet computers offer a variety of benefits.

They include interactive programs to demonstrate problem-solving in math, scratchpad features for note-taking and bookmarking, the ability to immediately send quizzes and homework to teachers, and the chance to view videos or tutorials on everything from important historical events to learning foreign languages.

They're especially popular in special education services, for children with autism spectrum disorders and learning disabilities, and for those who learn best when something is explained with visual images, not just through talking.



AP

In this Aug. 23, 2011 photo, Eric Calandriello, left, lends tech support to senior Jean Harafin, 17, after she and other students received iPads at Burlington High School in Burlington, Mass.

Some advocates also say the interactive nature of learning on an iPad comes naturally to many of today's students, who've grown up with electronic devices as part of their everyday world.

But for all of the excitement surrounding the growth of iPads in public secondary schools, some experts watching the trend warn that the districts need to ensure they can support the wireless infrastructure, repairs and other costs that accompany a switch to such a tech-heavy approach.

And even with the most modern device in hand, students still need the basics of a solid curriculum and skilled teachers.

"There's a saying that the music is not in the piano and, in the same way, the learning is not in the device," said Mark Warschauer, an education and informatics professor at the University of California-Irvine whose specialties include research on the intersection of technology and education.

"I don't want to oversell these things or present the idea that these devices are miraculous, but they have some benefits and that's why so many people outside of schools are using them so much," he said.

One such iPad devotee is 15-year-old Christian Woods, who starts his sophomore year at Burlington, Mass., High School on a special student support team to help about 1,000 other teens adjust to their new tablets.

"I think people will like it. I really don't know anybody in high school that wouldn't want to get an iPad," he said. "We're always using technology at home, then when you're at school it's textbooks, so it's a good way to put all of that together."

Districts are varied in their policies on how they police students' use. Many have filtering programs to keep students off websites that have not been pre-approved, and some require the students to turn in the iPads during vacation breaks and at the end of the school year. Others hold the reins a little more loosely.

"If we truly consider this a learning device, we don't want to take it away and say, `Leaning stops in the summertime.' " said Larkin, the Burlington principal.

And the nation's domestic textbook publishing industry, accounting for $5.5 billion in yearly sales to secondary schools, is taking notice of the trend with its own shift in a competitive race toward developing curriculum specifically for iPads.

At Boston-based Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, for instance, programmers scrambled to create an iPad-specific secondary school program starting almost as soon as Apple unveiled the tablet in spring 2010.

The publisher's HMH Fuse algebra program, which became available at the start of the 2010 school year, was among the first and is a top seller to districts. Another algebra program and a geometry offering are coming out now.

The HMH Fuse online app is free and gives users an idea of how it works, and the content can be downloaded for $60. By comparison, the publisher's 950-page algebra text on which it was based is almost $73 per copy, and doesn't include the graphing calculators, interactive videos and other features.

For a school that would buy 300 of the textbooks for its freshman class, for instance, the savings from using the online version would be almost $4,000.

Jay Diskey, executive director of the Association of American Publishers' schools division, said all of the major textbook publishers are moving toward electronic offerings, but at least in the short term, traditional bound textbooks are here to stay.

"I think one of the real key questions that will be answered over the next several years is what sort of things work best in print for students and what sort of things work best digitally," Diskey said. "I think we're on the cusp of a whole new area of research and comprehension about what digital learning means."

THE DAY

From Page 17

easy to make a change."

■ ■ ■ ■

They'd returned to New York from a vacation in Italy on Sept. 10, 2001—two 30-somethings eager to get back to careers they both loved.

Louis Spitzer was the director of research and development for an upstart wireless technology company; Gillian Caldwell was executive director of WITNESS, a nonprofit organization started by musician Peter Gabriel to use film and video to bring attention to human rights abuses.

They had moved in together a year earlier, committed to building a life and, eventually, raising a family. But the couple were like many in thinking, "Now's just not the right time for kids. We have so much still to do professionally." They worried about the financial stress that comes with having children, and the commitment.

Says Spitzer: "We couldn't envision carving more space out for a family at that time."

On Sept. 11, he was at a Starbucks on the Upper West Side when the first plane struck. She exited the subway in Tribeca, only blocks from the World Trade Center, and saw the gaping hole. When the second plane hit and the towers fell, Caldwell stood on the street still, able to think only: "My God. Everybody in those buildings is dead."

Ten years later, just saying the words brings her to tears.

The couple became part of the alternative universe that was New York, and America, in the days that followed. Everyone was traumatized, mourning, questioning. Some were angry. Some paralyzed. Spitzer and Caldwell took a half-glass-full approach, talking about whether something good—hopeful, even—could come from the death and destruction.

Their conversations were vague, at first. Then, a week after the attacks, Caldwell went out for drinks with a friend whose best friend's brother had been killed in the towers. They talked for hours about the state of the world. The next morning, Caldwell awoke with a feeling of absolute clarity. She went to Spitzer and asked, "What are we waiting for?"

Only a few weeks later, she felt a strange pain in her abdomen, took a home pregnancy test while Spitzer slept—and then hurried to wake him up.

Tess arrived on June 23, 2002, a child born not of some newfound sense of mortality but rather a choice by two individuals to put love and family first in their post-9/11 lives, no matter how drastically that altered their world before that horrible day.

"In response to something like this, you can either say to yourself, 'Who would want to bring a child into a world like this? What a terrible place to be.' Or you can say, 'Well, the only thing that really matters is love,'" says Caldwell.

It was the first of many transformative decisions. Spitzer became a stay-at-home father. Meanwhile, Caldwell's focus at WITNESS suddenly included finding someone to succeed her as executive director.

In 2005 their second child, a boy named Finley, was born. Two years later, the couple moved to the Washington, D.C., area when Caldwell went to work for a group lobbying for solutions to climate change, a move driven by her desire to leave a better world for her children.

Today, the family lives in Takoma Park, Maryland, where Caldwell, 45, works from home running her own consulting business. His world view reshaped by both 9/11 and his role as a father, Spitzer, 48, works at a nonprofit fighting to end extreme poverty.

Finley is a sandy blond 7-year-old, full of questions. Now 9, Tess loves hip hop dancing, gymnastics and martial arts. She also plans to start her own soccer team that she will, of course, coach. "She's very entrepreneurial," her mother says, laughing.

It's hard for Caldwell and Spitzer to imagine how different their lives might have been if not for 9/11 and the choices they made because of it. Maybe they would, one day, have had children. Or maybe they wouldn't have been able to conceive by the time they got around to it. Maybe they would have adopted. What they know is they wouldn't have Tess and Finley.

They have told Tess the story of how she came to be, but it's a story they know they will tell again when she's older. There's no way to think about how their daughter was conceived without thinking about Sept. 11. It's part of the narrative of all their lives now.

Still, the narrative isn't that Tess was the consequence of hate or evil, or the aftereffect of some unthinkable act. Rather, says Caldwell, she is the product of one beautiful decision that came from all of that, the choice "to give love and life another chance." When the time comes to recount the story once more, that is what she'll tell her little girl.

Life & Style

Italian cops nab alleged vandal of famous fountain

ROME (AP)—Police said Monday they had detained a man who confessed to knocking two chunks of marble off a statue in Rome's famed Piazza Navona and of trying to damage the nearby Trevi Fountain.

The suspect was picked up during a routine patrol near Piazza Navona late Sunday, a day after the vandalism took place, carabinieri officials told a press conference. Police noticed him because he was wearing the same white sneakers worn during the attack, images of which were captured by security camera footage.

Rome Mayor Gianni Alemanno urged no clemency for the suspect, saying Italy must protect its artistic heritage with an "exemplary punishment."

The footage showed the man climbing in the Moro Fountain on the southern end of Piazza Navona early Saturday and repeatedly attacking the statue—one of four large faces at the edge of the fountain—with a large cobblestone and then walking away.

The damage is on a 19th-century copy of the original Moro Fountain by 16th-century artist Giacomo della Porta. Bernini added the central figure in the 1600s.

On Monday restoration work began to reattach the pieces, with the damaged fountain being drained and the broken pieces being cleaned.

"There are technicians from the cultural heritage office who will make a first assessment of the time and cost," said Dino Gasperini, Rome city councilor in charge of the city's cultural heritage. "We are talking about thousands of euros."

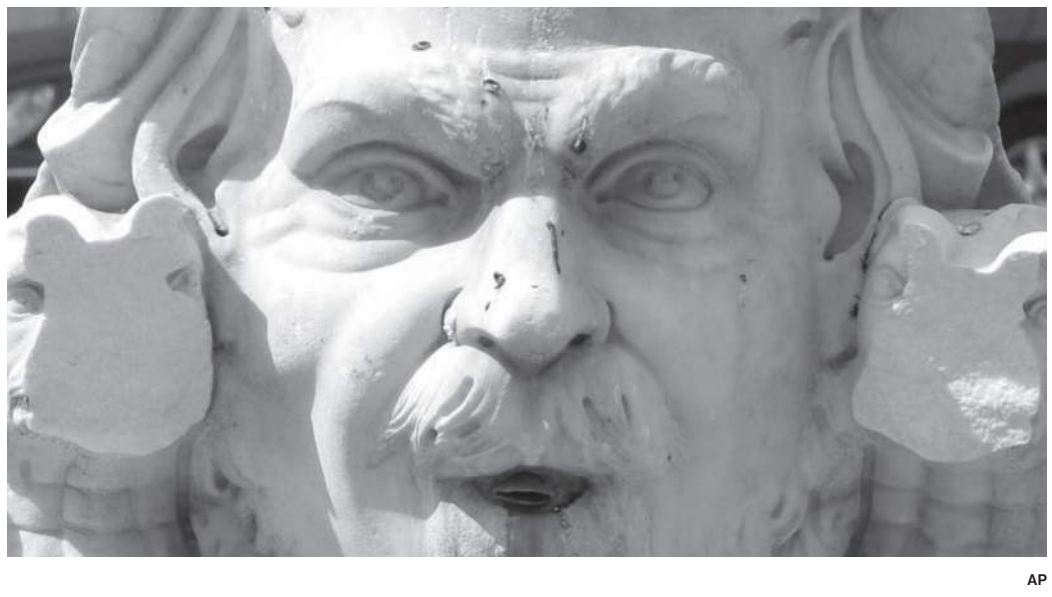
Col. Giuseppe Canio La Gala of the carabinieri's art patrimony squad said the man had confessed to both the Piazza Navona attack and of throwing the rock at the Trevi Fountain a few hours later. He missed that target and the Trevi Fountain wasn't damaged.

Alemanno said such a crime cannot be treated lightly.

"I hope that this criminal is given an exemplary punishment, including jailtime, because it's necessary to make clear the gravity of the crime to defend our artistic patrimony," he said in a statement.

Tourists in Piazza Navona on Monday morning seemed to concur.

"It is a crime," said British tourist Norman Rose. "I don't know how important it is, but it is a crime against the values of civilization."



AP

Two big chunks of marble are missing from the Moor fountain in Rome's Piazza Navona Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011.

Italian tenor Salvatore Licitra dies in Sicily

ROME (AP)—Salvatore Licitra, a tenor known in his Italian homeland as the "new Pavarotti" for his potent voice and considerable stamina, died Monday at age 43 after spending nine days in a coma following a motor-scooter accident in Sicily.

Catania's Garibaldi Hospital, announcing the death, said Licitra never regained consciousness after suffering severe head and chest injuries in the Aug. 27 accident. Doctors had said Licitra crashed his scooter into a wall near the town of Ragusa, apparently after suffering an interruption of blood to the brain while driving.

AP

In this May 13, 2002 file photo, Italian tenor Salvatore Licitra is interviewed in New York after his Metropolitan Opera debut.

The hospital said Licitra's family agreed to make his organs available for transplant.

"So very sad to say goodbye to Salvatore Licitra. I will miss you," soprano Deborah Voigt, a frequent onstage partner, wrote on her Facebook page.

In separate comments emailed to The Associated Press, Voigt wrote: "This is just heartbreaking. Salvatore was a great singer, but he was also just a really lovely guy. Always ready for a laugh, always light in spirit."

The singer recalled that Licitra was her "first Dick Johnson," referring to the tenor role in Puccini's "La Fanciulla del West" at the San Francisco Opera in 2010. Voigt sang the role of Minnie in the opera, and she reminisced how Licitra had "held my hand every moment as I stumbled along slaughtering his language!"

"His passing in the fullness of his career hurts," the La Scala opera house wrote in its own announcement of the tenor's death.

La Scala noted that Licitra debuted in the famed Milan venue in the 1998-1999 season, with maestro Riccardo Muti conducting him in Verdi's "La Forza del Destino."

But it was on the stage of Metropolitan Opera in New York, that Licitra, the Swiss-born son of Sicilian parents, grabbed the world's attention. He subbed for mega-tenor Luciano Pavarotti in a gala performance in 2002 of Puccini's "Tosca," wowing the audience and winning long ovations for his two big arias. The audience's response brought tears to his eyes.

Italian state TV, giving the news of his death, said Licitra was considered "Pavarotti's heir."

Peter Gelb, the Metropolitan Opera's general manager, hailed Licitra as "one of the greatest natural tenor talents of his generation. His premature death is tragic for his family, friends and loved ones, and his legions of admirers around the world, which include his many fans at the Met."

La Scala praised Licitra as a "dramatic tenor, with strength."

"Licitra represented the school and tradition of Italian song, in his natural relationships to words," the Milan opera house said. "A decade of his personal history was interwoven with our theater."

The tenor made his debut in Parma, Italy, in 1998.

He had traveled to the Ragusa area in late summer ahead of a September ceremony to receive a local music prize. Licitra's web site, which carried the news of his death, still listed upcoming engagements, including an appearance later this month in Tokyo.

During his career, Licitra also performed at the Vienna State Opera, Munich's Bayerische Staatsoper, London's Royal Opera, Paris' Opera Bastille, and the Lyric Opera of Chicago and several other prestigious venues.

TOP TEN

iTunes' top 10 selling singles and albums of the week ending Aug. 29, 2011:

SINGLES:

1. **Moves Like Jagger** (Studio Recording from 'The Voice' Performance) (feat. Christina Aguilera), Maroon 5
2. **Pumped Up Kicks**, Foster the People
3. **Stereo Hearts** (feat. Adam Levine), Gym Class Heroes
4. **Cheers (Drink to That)**, Rihanna
5. **Lighters** (feat. Bruno Mars), Bad Meets Evil
6. **Party Rock Anthem** (feat. Lauren Bennett & Goon-Rock), LMFAO
7. **She Will** (feat. Drake), Lil Wayne
8. **You and I**, Lady GaGa
9. **Super Bass**, Nicki Minaj
10. **Good Life**, One Republic

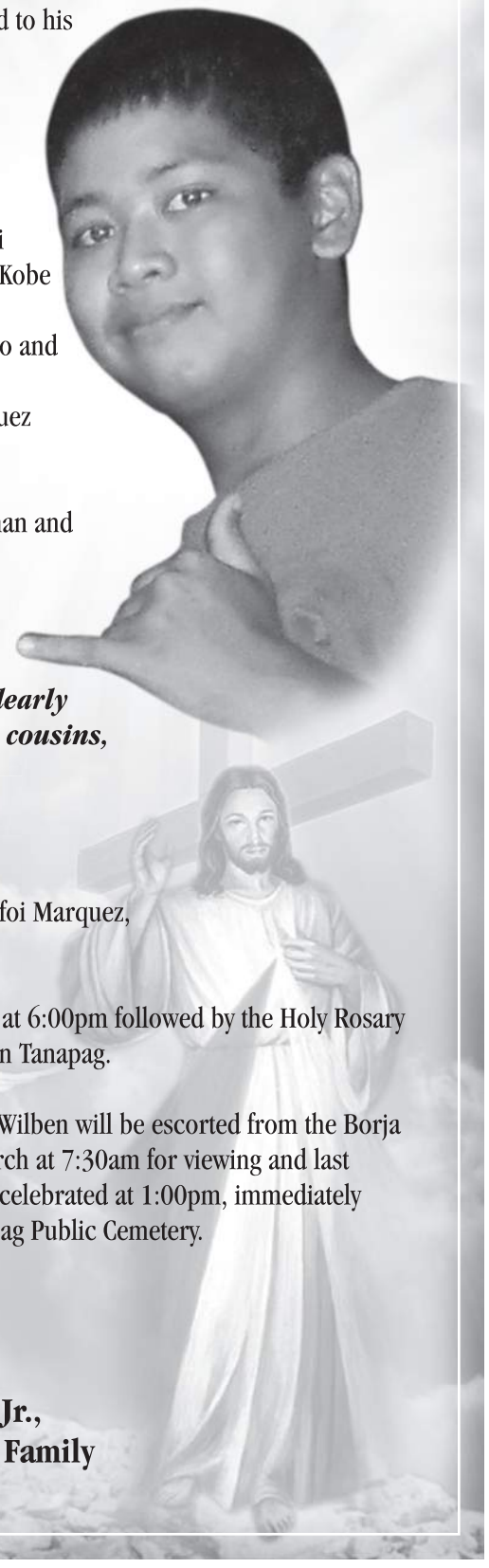
ALBUMS:

1. **Tha Carter IV**, Lil Wayne
2. **Hell On Heels**, Pistol Annies
3. **The R.E.D. Album**, Game
4. **21**, ADELE
5. **Watch the Throne**, Jay-Z, Kanye West
6. **Sigh No More**, Mumford & Sons
7. **I'm With You**, Red Hot Chili Peppers
8. **Muppets: The Green Album**, Various Artists
9. Torches, Foster the People
10. **Loud**, Rihanna

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

Wilben Herman T. Lieto

Born to life on March 27, 1996, was called to his Eternal rest on September 1, 2011.



His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Parents: Joseph Lifoifoi and Annjuilet Tudela Lieto Lifoifoi
Brothers: Joseph Jr., Francisco Jimmy, Kobe

Maternal Grandparents: William Taitano and Julie Tudela Lieto
Paternal Grandparent: Rosalia L. Marquez
Paternal Grandparents: Joaquin and Magdalena San Nicolas
Paternal–Reared Grandparents: Herman and Donata L. Taitano
Godparents: Kent Kalen and Bobbie B. Dela Cruz

He is also survived by and will be dearly missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and classmates.

In His new life, He now joins his:
Paternal Grandfather: Jimmy Marquez
Uncles: Wilgene Tudela Lieto, Jimmy Lifoifoi Marquez, Patrick Acosta Blas

Mass of Intentions is being offered nightly at 6:00pm followed by the Holy Rosary at 7:00pm at the Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag.

On Friday, September 09, 2011, our dear Wilben will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to the Santa Remedios Church at 7:30am for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00pm, immediately followed by interment service at the Tanapag Public Cemetery.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From Joseph, Annjuliet, Joseph Jr., Francisco, Kobe, and the entire Family

'The Help' puts in overtime at No. 1 with $19M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Help" stayed on the job over Labor Day, finishing as the No. 1 film for the third-straight weekend.

The acclaimed drama about Southern black maids speaking out during the civil-rights movement took in $19 million over the long holiday weekend, according to studio estimates Monday.

That raised the film's domestic total to $123.4 million. "The Help" also has begun rolling out overseas, pulling in $1.7 million in its first international market, Australia.

A DreamWorks Pictures release distributed by Disney, "The Help" has been a triumph amid a rush of late-summer duds that ended Hollywood's busiest season. Another batch of new movies this weekend packed in modest to small crowds.

"'The Help' is literally in a league of its own at the end of a summer movie season where the competition was virtually non-existent," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "It's a really good movie that happened to land in the perfect spot at the perfect time. They are really just reaping the benefit of the worst dog days of August that we have seen in years."

Best among the newcomers was Focus Features' Holocaust-revenge thriller "The Debt" at No. 2 with $12.6 million from Friday to Monday. "The Debt" stars Helen Mirren and features "The Help" co-star Jessica Chastain.

The Weinstein Co. sci-fi horror tale "Apollo 18" opened at No. 3 with $10.7 million. Another fright flick, Relativity Media's "Shark Night 3D," debuted at No. 4 with $10.3 million.

A handful of other movies opened in narrower release well outside the weekend's top 10, including Visio Entertainment's golf drama "Seven Days in Utopia," which stars Robert Duvall and Lucas Black and pulled in a modest $1.6 million.

Pantelion Films' action comedy "Saving Private Perez" debuted with $830,000, while Samuel Goldwyn Films' sex comedy "A Good Old Fashioned Orgy" opened with just $153,000.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Monday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Tuesday.

1. **"The Help,"** $19 million.
2. **"The Debt,"** $12.6 million.
3. **"Apollo 18,"** $10.7 million.
4. **"Shark Night 3D,"** $10.3 million.
5. **"Rise of the Planet of the Apes,"** $10.25 million.
6. **"Colombiana,"** $9.4 million.
7. **"Our Idiot Brother,"** $7 million.
8. **"Spy Kids: All the Time in the World,"** $6.6 million.
9. **"Don't Be Afraid of the Dark,"** $6.1 million.
10. **"The Smurfs,"** $5.6 million.

Estimated non-holiday weekend ticket sales at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Rentrak Corp.:

1. **"The Smurfs,"** $23.3 million.
2. **"Rise of the Planet of the Apes,"** $19.4 million.
3. **"Final Destination 5,"** $18.7 million.
4. **"Cowboys & Aliens,"** $9 million.
5. **"Horrible Bosses,"** $8.1 million.
6. **"Cars 2,"** $6.5 million.
7. **"Green Lantern,"** $5.7 million.
8. **"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2,"** $5.5 million.

9 (tie). **"Captain America: The First Avenger,"** $4.7 million.

9 (tie). **Kung Fu Panda 2,"** $4.7 million.

While holdover films almost always have big drops in revenue in subsequent weekends, "The Help" did the same business this past Friday to Sunday as it did a week earlier.

Starring Viola Davis, Emma Stone and Octavia Spencer, "The Help" has followed the path of the book on which it is based, which became a literary phenomenon through word-of-mouth among readers.

The film began solidly with a No. 2 opening, then rose to its three-week reign at No. 1 as fans talked it up to friends.

"The Help" gave Hollywood a slight boost over Labor Day weekend a year ago. Overall domestic revenues for the four days came in at $139 million, up 5 percent from the same weekend last year, when "The American" opened at No. 1 with $16.7 million, according to Hollywood.com.

Domestic receipts from the first weekend in May through Labor Day finished at about $4.38 billion, up a fraction from summer 2010 revenues, Hollywood.com estimates.

But factoring in this year's higher ticket prices, actual movie attendance was down slightly, the fourth-straight summer that admissions have dropped.

Overseas, the family smash "The Smurfs" continued to dominate, pulling in $23.3 million to pad its international total to $295.8 million and its worldwide haul to about $430 million. "Rise of the Planet of the Apes" ran second internationally with $19.4 million, lifting its overseas take to $186.5 million and its worldwide total to about $350 million.

AP

From left, writer Scott Z. Burns, producers Michael Shamberg, Stacey Sher and Gregory Jacobs, actors Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Laurence Fishburne and director Steven Soderbergh pose during the photo call for the movie Contagion at the 68th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011.

Venice: 'Contagion' tracks spread of lethal virus

By COLLEEN BARRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Academy Award-winning director Steven Soderbergh's latest film "Contagion" can be considered a 105-minute public service announcement with a simple message: Wash your hands. Often.

Certainly audience members may look more warily at public door handles and subway hand rails after watching, perhaps in a crowded theater, the film about the global spread of a lethal surface-borne virus with a kill rate of about 25 percent.

"It is impossible, once you start thinking about it, to stop thinking about it," Soderbergh acknowledged at a news conference ahead of the film's world premiere out of competition at the Venice Film Festival on Saturday.

"I'm washing my hands a little bit more. But since I showed up in Venice I have been shaking hands, alot. I was on an airplane, which is one of the worst places you can be. This is just the world we live in."

On a filmmaking level, "Contagion" recalls in some ways the great ensemble cast of disaster films such as "The Poseiden Adventure" and "The Towering Inferno" produced by Erwin Allen in the 1970s.

"Contagion" features Matt Damon, Gwyneth Paltrow, Kate Winslet, Jude Law, Marion Cotillard and Lawrence Fishburne in a fast-paced drama that depicts the rapid spread of a lethal virus of unknown origin and with no available vaccine.

Damon plays Mitch Emhoff, a father trying to protect his daughter from infection after his wife Beth, played by Paltrow, succumbs to the virus after a business trip to Hong Kong.

Fishburne is Dr. Ellis Cheever, the cool-headed deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control, who dispatches Winslet, Dr. Erin Mears, to Minnesota, where the Emhoffs live, to figure out how fast the virus is spreading. Cotillard is Dr. Leonora Orantes, who heads to Hong Kong.

Law plays a muckraking San Francisco blogger, Alan Krumwiede, whose character provides 12 million unique viewers a day suggestions of conspiracy theories about the virus' spread and government efforts to contain it and develop a vaccine.

"There is a certain amount of conflicting and misinformation, and conspiracy that inevitably makes its way around the world with the same progressive force and the same spread as the virus," said scriptwriter Scott Z. Burns.

Soderbergh said the star cast makes the film with overlapping stories easier for audiences to process.

"You are throwing so many characters and so much information at the audience, that it is very helpful for them to get a reference point to hold onto," Soderbergh said. "There is a reason that movie stars have existed since the beginning of cinema. It's good for the audience."

But while disaster films may come to mind as the virus provokes food shortages, looting and kidnappings—not to mention mass graves in urban America—Soderbergh said he was actually thinking more of "All the President's Men" when he made the movie.

"Scott and I, I think, were interested in making a procedural that was realistic, obviously, in its content, but stylistically also very simple, very clean. So that's the film I was thinking of most," Soderbergh said.

Damon—who has worked with Soderbergh on six films, including the "Oceans" series, said he is especially proud of the scene early in the film when he is told that his wife has died. They wanted an alternative to what Soderbergh called "the slump," a long shot showing the guy getting the news and slumping against the way, so they talked to an ER doctor.

"This guy has delivered this news hundreds of times to people said that, there's 'the slump.' That's the one common thing that happens. The other thing that happens, that someone just can't actually absorb the information. So we literally did the whole scene based on a real conversation and how it actually goes," Damon said.

Paltrow rejected the idea that her character's death was in any way a moral judgment for cheating on her husband, a fact that emerges after her death as investigators tracked her movements.

"I think that if death by virus was a punishment for extramarital affairs, there would be about three dudes left in this room. Maybe less, because we are in Italy," she joked.

Lewis gone, but telethon brings in more than '10

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Even without Jerry Lewis, the Muscular Dystrophy Association telethon posted its best gain since the recession started, though the program's longtime host was on the minds of many during the 46th annual fundraiser.

"American Idol" executive producer Nigel Lythgoe said after co-hosting Sunday's program that he's sorry the famed comedian didn't participate, but the organization needs to move on to ensure the fundraiser continues.

The telethon raised nearly $61.5 million Sunday, an increase of about $2.6 million over last year, MDA officials said. Lythgoe told The Associated Press minutes after the six-hour live broadcast ended on the east coast that he thought the 85-year-old actor would show up either during the telecast or earlier to film a taped segment of his signature song "You'll Never Walk Alone."

"I was fully expecting him to turn up at any point and join that six hours—and I'm sorry he didn't," Lythgoe told the AP. "And hopefully another year he might. I mean, he knows that he is always welcome on the telethon. It's his baby."

An orchestra was ready to film Lewis, but he didn't come to the Las Vegas casino where the telethon was filmed, Lythgoe said.

Lewis publicist Candi Cazau declined comment when reached by the AP. Earlier, she said Lewis never agreed to any appearance—recorded or live—after the MDA announced in August he wouldn't take part in the show or be its chairman.

Lythgoe and co-host Jann Carl said during the show that Lewis "retired."

Lewis has not publicly said why he is no longer chairman of the MDA, or why he didn't personally appear in this year's telethon. The co-hosts' remarks during the show were the first time the MDA has addressed Lewis' departure since it was announced, and telethon spokesman Jim Brown declined further comment about the split.

Lewis' absence ended a 45-year run in which he raised $1.66 billion.

AP

Actor Colin Firth, right, and Livia Giuggioli arrive for the premiere of the movie Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy, at the 68th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Monday, Sept. 5, 2011.

Firth happy to be playing second fiddle

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Best Actor Oscar winner Colin Firth says he was all too happy to take a step down to supporting actor for his "meaty" new role in "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy."

"It was great to have something that was meaty enough to get my teeth into, but let other people do the heavy lifting." Firth told journalists at the Venice Film Festival Monday. "It's basically all I did last year and it suited me very well."

Firth—who won the Oscar for "The King's Speech" and was nominated for the same award for "A Single Man"—plays the calm, collected intelligence agent Bill Haydon, a counter point character to the films lead Gary Oldman, playing the main character, retired spy George Smiley.

"Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy," directed by Tomas Alfredson—the Swedish director of 2008 vampire film "Let the Right One In"—is among entries vying for the top "Golden Lion" prize at the festival's conclusion this Saturday.

Alfredson's interpretation of the John Le Carre Cold War spy yarn is a slow brewing, elegant retelling of the classic novel.

But will audiences fall for a subtly paced spy drama that unravels to reveal betrayal and retribution without the sexy antics of a James Bond film, or the action packed scenes of a "Bourne Identity?"

"There is a tendency to underestimate audiences," Firth said at a news conference. "People don't just want 'slash and burn'—so I am optimistic about (the film) having an enormous audience."

Audiences may be surprised that Firth opted for a supporting role—and less on screen time—given his domination of the screen as Britain's King George VI in "The King's Speech." Likewise, in "A Single Man" in 2009, Firth's character, a homosexual contemplating suicide after the death of his lover, monopolizes the story—a performance that won him best actor honor that year in Venice.

Oldman's mannered performance as Smiley offers an anchor in this complex whodunit that focuses on the inner-workings of the UK's elite M16 intelligence agency divided by the need to cover up—or prove—the existence of a highly placed Soviet mole.

London provides most of the thriller's elegant ambiance, where trench coat-sporting intelligence staff sip tea, or scotch, send numerically coded messages and sneak files out of archives. But it also travels to the Turkish city of Istanbul for key scenes.

TNT cancels 'HawthoRNe'

LOS ANGELES—"HawthoRNe," the TNT drama starring Jada Pinkett Smith as the chief nursing officer of a Richmond, Va., hospital, has been canceled.

Despite the appeal of Smith, who is married to Will Smith, and the addition of singer Marc Anthony to the cast as a romantic interest for Smith's character, the series never drew a large audience.

"TNT has decided not to order a fourth season of 'HawthoRNe,'" said a statement from the network. "TNT truly appreciates the tremendous dedication of everyone involved in 'HawthoRNe.' The series gave TNT the opportunity to work with many outstanding people, including Jada Pinkett Smith and the rest of the show's talented cast, crew, producers and writers. We wish everyone involved with 'HawthoRNe' nothing but the best."

The cancellation of the show, which also featured Michael Vartan, comes as recent rumors regarding marital woes with the Smiths and an alleged affair between Smith and co-star Marc Anthony have circulated the tabloids. Smith and Anthony, who is divorcing singer Jennifer Lopez, have both denied that they ever had a romantic relationship. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I am really digging the new TNT show, "Franklin and Bash." Do you know if it'll be back for a second season?—Hank F., Baltimore

A: Well, Hank, if you've got a hankering for a second season of "Franklin and Bash," then I've got good news for you: TNT has picked up the hit legal drama for another season. Mark-Paul Gosselaar and Breckin Meyer will return as the titular characters to cause more waves at their button-down agency. No word yet on many episodes will be in the new season or when it will premiere, but we'll assume it's summer 2012. The show also stars Malcolm McDowell, Dana Davis, Kumail Nanjiani, Reed Diamond and Garcelle Beauvais.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: While I am excited to see that Maria Bello is starring in the new, American version of "Prime Suspect," it got me to thinking about the original British series. Can you tell me where I can see those episodes?—Kathy D., via e-mail

A: You're in luck! On Aug. 23, Acorn Media will be releasing the first series of the police-procedural television drama (go to acornonline.com for more details). This series—which aired in the 1990s and 2000s on Britain's ITV network, for a total of 14 episodes—garnered rave reviews and numerous accolades. Aside from starring the fabulous Helen Mirren, it also had big-name guest stars like Ralph Fiennes, Tom Wilkinson and David Thewlis. Director Tom Hooper, who won the Academy Award last year for "The King's Speech," also directed series six. Those are some mighty big shoes to fill for NBC—which will air the U.S. version beginning Sept. 22-- but I have my fingers crossed for Maria Bello and crew to make "Prime Suspect" their own.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I am a huge fan of "White Collar" and have season one on DVD. When will seasons two and three be out?—Rita S., Port Charlotte, Fla.

Maria Bello

A: The USA network show about a con man working with an FBI agent to catch criminals (as part of his work-release program from prison) recently returned for its third season in June, so you'll have to wait a bit for those DVDs. However, you can now find season two at your favorite local and online retailers. The four-disc set includes all 16 episodes, deleted scenes, a gag reel, featurettes and commentaries for episodes nine, 12 and 16.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: I am so glad that "The Glades" has returned, and I was wondering what else has series star Matt Passmore been in? He is my favorite actor on television right now.—L.S., Granbury, Texas

A: Prior to landing the lead role of Jim Longworth on A&E's "The Glades," Matt Passmore—who was born in Brisbane, Australia, on Christmas Eve 1972—worked on several TV shows and movies. You might have seen him in: "McLeod's Daughter," "Son of the Mask," "Last Man Standing" or "The Cut."

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com.

Son's pregnant girlfriend has dad expecting trouble

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My son's girlfriend is pregnant. I think there is a chance it may not be his, although she claims it is. "Ben" met "Christy," and a little over a week later she announced she was pregnant. She's now 34 weeks into the pregnancy.

I have asked him repeatedly if he is sure the baby is his and he says yes, but the math doesn't seem right to me. I have suggested Ben seek a paternity test, but I don't think he's going to take my advice.

I am not the only person who is questioning this, and I feel terrible for having the doubt. He has asked Christy to marry him and she accepted. I couldn't believe it. They were going to marry that same month, but when Ben mentioned a prenuptial agreement to protect the real estate and other property he owns (and that I'm financially involved in), Christy blew up! She just about kicked Ben to the curb. Now, thankfully, the wedding is postponed. Christy's overboard reaction has added to my suspicion. What do you think, Abby?

SUSPICIOUS DAD IN RHODE ISLAND

DEAR DAD: I agree that before your son marries Christy, everything should be out in the open. Regardless of whose child she is carrying, your son may be in love with her and it may not matter to him. If the child is indeed his, a paternity test would lay any doubts to rest.

That said, I spoke with my gynecologist and asked how long after conception it would take for a pregnancy to show up in a test, and was told the answer is one week AFTER A WOMAN'S PERIOD IS LATE. For Ben not to insist on having a prenuptial agreement under these circumstances would be a mistake, and I hope he will reconsider.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother died suddenly three years ago and my sister overdosed a year later. I didn't know she was so depressed.

Her son, "Jordan," is the joy of my life. Every time I watch him, all I can think of is "Why?" Why did my sister choose to leave us alone? I don't know how to move on when I look at Jordan and think of my sister. Please help.

LEFT WITH THE MEMORIES

DEAR LEFT: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the multiple losses you have suffered. Although you feel left alone by your sister's suicide, the truth is you are NOT alone. In the United States, millions of people's lives have been touched by suicide -- whether it was that of a colleague, friend or a family member. That you are reminded of your sister when you see your nephew is a normal reaction.

When your sister overdosed, she may have been acting on impulse and trying to end what she perceived to be intolerable psychic pain. Please contact the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Among the many programs it offers is a listing of local support groups for survivors. The website is www.afsp.org; the phone number is (888) 333-2377.

Author Eric Marcus has written an excellent book on this subject, "Why Suicide?" published by Harper One. He, like you, is a survivor of suicide, and you may find the answers you're looking for by reading it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

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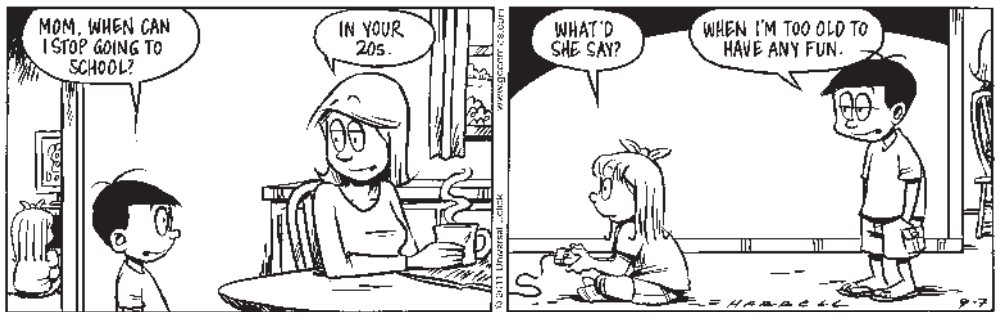
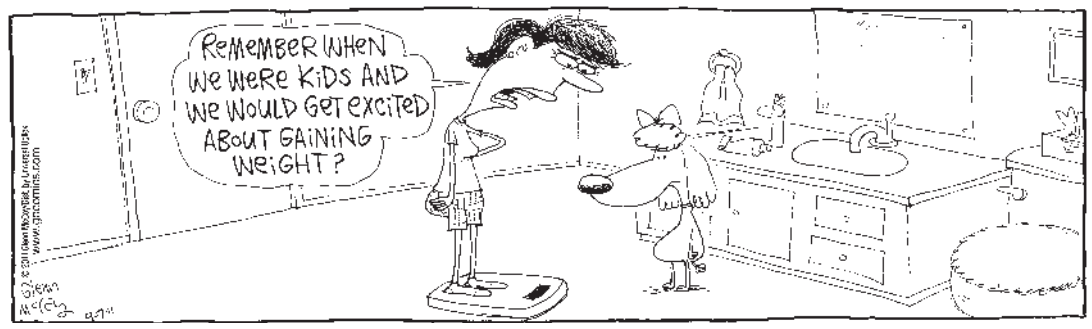


The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Use the oven
5 Mandible
8 Census stats
12 Former Fed head Greenspan
13 Author Umberto
14 Crooner Jerry
15 Hood
17 "By the power vested — ..."
18 Perspiration
19 St. George's foe
21 Mentor
24 Bigger photo (Abbr.)
25 Ginormous
28 Never again?
30 Mischief-maker
33 "Born in the —"
34 Musical endings
35 Water (Fr.)
36 Stiller or Stein
37 Supplements, with "out"
38 Kermit, for one
39 Petrol
41 Line holder
43 Summon with a shout
46 "Soon It's — Rain"
50 Hodgepodge
51 Ship boarders' passages
54 Midday
55 Brazilian tourist mecca
56 Duel tool
57 Chromosome part
58 Shade source
59 Tat-tat lead-in

DOWN

1 Luggage
2 "There oughta be —!"
3 Welles role
4 Intermesh
5 Lustrous black
6 Expert
7 Information
8 Bird-related
9 More like a string bean
10 Ticklish Muppet
11 Witnessed
16 R-V connection
20 "Cheers" actor Roger
22 Castle
23 Hypnotized
25 Center
26 Work with
27 Bundle of nerves?
29 Instance
31 Chinese chairman
32 Boxer
34 "— la vie"
38 Rose, e.g.
40 Unaccompanied
42 Nest item
43 Reps. and Sens.
44 Lotion additive
45 Shrek, for one
47 California wine valley
48 Dmitri's denial
49 Whale-watching, maybe
52 Have a bug
53 — de plume

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	L	A	S	■	P	I	C	■	A	P	S	E
T	A	S	K	■	A	S	H	■	P	A	I	I
A	B	S	J	N	T	H	E	■	P	I	N	K
■	■	■	M	O	F	■	S	I	F	D	G	F
L	A	M	P	S	■	A	S	E	A	■	■	■
A	H	O	Y	■	A	B	S	O	R	B	E	D
M	A	S	■	C	L	A	E	S	■	R	U	E
A	B	S	T	R	A	C	T	■	M	I	R	A
■	■	■	H	U	S	K	■	V	I	G	O	R
S	H	R	I	E	K	■	M	E	N	■	■	■
C	O	I	N	■	A	B	S	E	N	T	E	E
A	M	O	K	■	N	O	R	■	I	O	W	A
B	E	T	S	■	S	O	P	■	E	W	E	R

Yesterday's answer 9-7

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18					■	■	19	20				
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24			■	■
25	26	27		■	28		29		■	30	31	32
33			■	34					■	35		
36			■	37				■	38			
■	■	39	40		■	41		42		■	■	■
43	44				45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50				■	51	52	53					
54					55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Evan Rachel Wood, 24; Devon Sawa, 33; Oliver Hudson, 35; Michael Emerson, 57.

Happy Birthday: Your emphasis should be on doing the things you enjoy most. Pick up information or sign up for a course that will enable you to follow a path that interests you. You should strive to learn, whether you develop a skill, take up a hobby or further your education to get ahead professionally. Visiting friends or relatives will help bring about change. Your numbers are 6, 14, 19, 22, 27, 39, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Too much on your plate or dealing with too many people at home or at work will lead to confusion, limitations and emotional upset. Take a moment to work on creative endeavors that ease your stress and lend perspective. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't stop short of your goals. Put pressure on anyone who slows you down. You can make gains if you are precise and detailed and if you finish what you start. Help will be offered if needed. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You need time to think before making a decision. Conflicting information will confuse you. Do your homework to discover what route to take. Inflict more discipline on the people for whom you are responsible. It's important to get what you want. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Do what you can to make your home inviting. Collaborating with people who are working toward the same goal will help you cut corners. An interesting change will enhance your lifestyle and the way you approach alternatives. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Strive for greater stability, and you will avoid big thinkers who will cost you big bucks. Set your own criteria and stick to a budget you can afford. Don't be afraid to offer less and wait and see what you get in return. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You cannot allow someone to take advantage of you when the stakes are so high. You stand to get ahead if you network on your own behalf instead of for someone else. Traveling, attending an industry event or signing up for a course will all lead to personal and professional benefits. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep a low profile and work diligently toward a goal. Letting others interfere will lead to setbacks and trouble. Someone who feels threatened or is jealous will criticize you in hopes of derailing your plans. Stand behind your ideas. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You are on the right track. You can cut a deal with someone who sees the value in partnering with you. Travel will lead to talks and the possibility to expand a project you are promoting. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may try to dodge an incriminating question regarding your personal life. In the end, it is best to offer the truth. Put whatever isn't working behind you so you can move on with your plans without feeling guilty. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You stand to make gains through personal or professional investments. Real estate deals, settlements, contracts or even cash from an unusual source are possible. Doing something special to your home for your family or a lover will be beneficial. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can go about getting what you want forcefully or strategically, but either way there will be a price to pay. Ask upfront what is expected of you. You don't want to leave any room for last-minute changes or surprises. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): It's time to bring your old ideas and partners together to turn your plans into a reality. Love is in sight, and whether it's with someone new or old, you must put time aside to make personal promises. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a practical outlook and an interesting way of getting what you want.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3	6	2	9	1	5	8	
	1						7	
						6		
					9			
		4	8	6	5	3		
			1					
		3						
	6						9	
	9	8	3	5	4	7	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	3	6	2	9	5	1	4
4	6	1	3	8	5	9	7	2
2	9	5	1	4	7	6	8	3
1	2	6	7	5	4	3	9	8
5	3	8	2	9	6	1	4	7
9	4	7	8	3	1	2	5	6
3	5	2	9	7	8	4	6	1
7	1	4	5	6	2	8	3	9
6	8	9	4	1	3	7	2	5

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CAMPFIRES Solution: 6 letters

S	T	S	M	O	R	E	S	E	N	A	P	O	R	P
F	T	A	G	T	A	E	H	B	E	N	C	H	E	L
S	I	I	B	N	F	L	P	B	U	R	N	A	V	L
K	S	R	P	L	I	T	O	P	S	I	S	R	O	E
R	K	A	E	O	E	R	D	O	O	W	L	E	C	H
A	O	T	M	N	P	S	L	A	O	C	S	D	O	S
P	O	A	N	O	O	U	M	L	B	E	N	L	N	Q
S	C	O	S	E	R	T	L	Y	G	A	E	O	T	U
G	H	I	E	T	C	A	S	A	T	H	S	H	A	A
O	A	T	S	A	M	C	T	S	R	S	E	I	I	L
D	R	A	M	H	R	N	A	A	E	R	A	A	N	I
T	C	P	S	E	A	R	O	O	D	T	U	O	V	T
O	O	R	E	V	E	R	S	A	T	I	L	I	T	Y
H	A	N	D	C	R	A	F	T	E	D	O	M	E	S
M	L	A	S	S	E	M	B	L	E	R	A	U	Q	S

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Accent, Advantages, Area, Aromas, Assemble, Basin, Bench, Build, Burn, Camp, Charcoal, Coals, Contain, Cook, Copper, Cover, Domes, Fire, Handcrafted, Heat, Heavy, Holder, Hole, Hot Dogs, Marshmallows, Outdoor, Patio, Pits, Popular, Propane, Quality, Rings, Roast, Screen, Shell, S'mores, Sparks, Spot, Square, Stand, Stone, Tables, Toasty, Versatility, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Vitamin C

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK
Plaintiff,
-v-
ALEINA D. HOFSCHNEIDER, ALVIN U. HOFSCHNEIDER, and LOUISE C. HOFSCHNEIDER,
Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0505

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 3, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 I 547, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2084/82, the original of which was registered on May 14, 1982, as Document No. 14232, at the Land Registry, Saipan; and (b) Lot 1734 NEW-7-5 (formerly part of Lot 1734 NEW-3, which was part of original Lot 1734, T.D. 661), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2017/90, the original of which was recorded on November 15, 1989, as Document No. 89-3805, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, September 16, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 4th day of August, 2011:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Mariana Acquisition Corporation
dba IP&E Saipan

IP&E Saipan is seeking a dependable individual to fill the position of

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Interested and qualified individuals may submit completed applications no later than September 15th, to: IP&E Saipan Terminal Office, Puerto Rico, Saipan OR IP&E Guam Corporate Office, Tamuning, Guam
Queries can be directed to the Human Resources Office at (671)647-0123, ext. 109.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Close Date: Sept. 12, 2011 — Salary: $8.00 per hour

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2.) Two (2) Years Experience as Supervisor, Front Desk.

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To supervises front office employees of hotel and resolves problems arising form guests complaints: Reservation & room assignment activities & unusual request & inquire, assign duties & shift to workers & observes performances to ensure adherence to hotel policies & established operating procedures, confers & cooperate with other department heads to ensure coordination of hotel activities. May patrol public rooms, investigate disturbance warns troublemaker. May register customer & issue keys & other related duties as assigned. Must speak & write Japanese.

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495 ext. 5840/2. Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resource Department.

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SEABRIDGE INC. (Saipan)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Requirements: BS Degree in Accounting (may be foreign equivalent); 5 years supervisory level accounting experience; knowledge & experience in shipping industry accounting procedures; computer literate in accounting related programs. Supervises & performs all accounting related duties for company engaged in shipping. Analyze financial info. & prepare financial reports.

Send resume to Seabridge Inc. office at G/F CPA Bldg., Commercial Port Ave. Puerto Rico, Saipan MP 96950. No phone calls please.

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TERM: Two Years, renewable

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Position Summary: The position is an excepted service position and is responsible for directing the fiscal function of the organization in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and other regulatory and advisory organizations. The employee provides the Board of Directors with an independent and expert evaluation on financial issues, the fiscal health of the Authority; and recommends changes that will improve the quality of fiscal planning and management of CDA. The incumbent shall also perform other functions as the Executive Director and the Board may require. The position is an Officer of the Authority.

Qualification Requirements: Must hold a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university in Accounting and a minimum of 5 years of professional experience in governmental or financial accounting; U.S. Certified Public Accountant is preferred but not required. Copy of degree/official transcript, police clearance, and professional certification must be attached to the application and must be submitted to the Office of Personnel Management.

For more information, please contact Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director by e-mail at executive@cda.gov.mp or by phone at 234-6245.

Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at the CDA Office, Wakins Bldg., Gualo Rai or our website at www.cda.gov.mp .

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Williams easily beats Ivanovic to reach quarters

AP

Serena Williams returns a shot to Ana Ivanovic of Serbia during the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Sept. 5, 2011.

US OPEN

NEW YORK (AP)—Already having let a big early lead slip away in the U.S. Open's fourth round, Serena Williams was facing a break point and in danger of falling behind Ana Ivanovic, a former No. 1 and Grand Slam title-winner.

A six-stroke exchange ended with Ivanovic netting a forehand to make the game score deuce. Up near the net, Williams held up a clenched fist and yelled, loud as can be: "Come on!"

It's a rallying cry often heard from the 29-year-old American, her first such display of this afternoon. Calling the match on TV, seven-time major champion John McEnroe said, "Scared me."

Whether that sort of in-your-face yell is meant to frighten opponents or not, it appeared to have that very effect. Williams took the next two points, too, starting a run of five consecutive games that allowed her to regain the upper hand in a 6-3, 6-4 victory over the 16th-seeded Ivanovic on Monday.

Asked afterward whether she tries to be intimidating on court, 13-time Grand Slam champion Williams replied: "No, I don't try. I just am."

Ivanovic insisted Williams didn't bother her with anything she said: "Not at all; I mean, I was screaming some 'Come ons'," the Serb explained.

But what about the way Williams plays? Well, that's another matter entirely.

"She does try to intimidate," 2008 French Open champion Ivanovic said. "She stays close to the baseline so you feel like you have no space to hit to."

And then there's Williams' serve, which is generally regarded as the most effective in women's tennis and delivered nine aces and permitted only one break against Ivanovic.

"I just have confidence in it. It's a weapon," said Williams, whose pal, filmmaker Spike Lee, sat in her guest box. "I'm just like, 'OK, I'm going to hit an ace here.' I hit an ace.'"

Just like that, huh?

Williams, a three-time champion at the U.S. Open, is back in a major quarterfinal for the first time since she won the Wimbledon championship in 2010, a 14-month gap filled with health scares that kept her off tour for nearly a year.

The lack of matches pushed Williams' ranking down to 175th, and while consecutive hard-court titles at Stanford and Toronto raised it, she's seeded only 28th in New York.

But Ivanovic said there's no doubt Williams is the favorite to win the tournament. Keep in mind: Williams is the only remaining woman with a Grand Slam title to her credit, after losses Monday by Ivanovic, Svetlana Kuznetsova and Francesca Schiavone.

Kuznetsova, who won the 2004 U.S. Open and 2009 French Open, was leading No. 1-seeded Caroline Wozniacki by a set and 4-1 in the second before falling apart and losing 6-7 (6), 7-5, 6-1 in a match that lasted 3 hours, 2 minutes and finished at 11:29 p.m.

Forty minutes before it ended, Wozniacki's boyfriend, U.S. Open men's golf champion Rory McIlory, tweeted: "COME ON!!!!!!"

"I know Rory was watching, so I think I kept him up for quite some time. I feel a bit guilty," Wozniacki said afterward. "Now he can sleep well because I won."

She reeled off 12 of the last 14 games by getting slightly more aggressive - and by benefiting from all of Kuznetsova's unforced errors, 78 in all.

Even facing such a big deficit, Wozniacki said she told herself, "OK, I can do this. I can still fight back."

She added: "I know that I'm in good shape. I can play out there for five hours if I have to."

The 21-year-old Wozniacki, the 2009 runner-up at the U.S. Open, has been ranked No. 1 for all but one week since last October but is still seeking her first major championship.

She now faces No. 10 Andrea Petkovic of Germany, who eliminated 76th-ranked Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain 6-1, 6-4.

"After last year's breakthrough here, when I reached fourth round, my confidence changed completely. I just started believing in myself, (that) I could reach the second weeks of Grand Slams," Petkovic said. "Before, I was just playing and seeing what happens."

Next for Williams is a match against No. 17 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia, who came back to beat No. 7 Schiavone of Italy 5-7, 6-3, 6-4 in a ragged match. There were 16 breaks of serve in 31 total games, and the two women combined for 21 double-faults.

Afterward, Pavlyuchenkova came up with the line of the tournament to describe her strategy against 2010 French Open champion Schiavone, saying: "I tried to be excessive aggressive."

With the wind whipping at 15 to 20 mph that arena earlier, Williams and Ivanovic both found it difficult to direct their shots exactly where they wanted them. On one serve, a gust knocked the magenta visor off Ivanovic's head, resulting in the point being replayed.

"It was crazy. I didn't even go for winners at any point. I just tried to get it over because it was so windy," Williams said. "It was, like, 'Wow.' It was definitely tough."

Even the theoretically simple task of tossing a ball up for a serve became an adventure.

Ivanovic acknowledged that she'll have trouble with the service toss on the calmest of days, so the swirling wind made for a particular challenge.

"My serve broke down a little more than hers did," said Ivanovic, who hurt herself with eight double-faults, including three in one game.

Williams generally nitpicks her performances, and she did so again Monday, although without getting into what specifically disappointed her.

What there's not a thing wrong with, she made clear, is her confidence.

After providing the caveat that she doesn't "know" if she's the best female tennis player in the world at the moment—regardless of what the rankings say—she added: "I believe I am."

Webb Simpson rallies to win Deutsche Bank

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—Webb Simpson finished off an amazing comeback with three clutch birdies, the final one on the second extra playoff hole Monday in the Deutsche Bank Championship for his second win in three weeks.

On a day filled with big crowds and big moments appropriate to the FedEx Cup playoffs, Simpson delivered a stunning conclusion on the TPC Boston.

He looked as if he would be the runner-up until knocking in a 30-foot birdie putt on the par-5 18th hole for a 6-under 65. That put him into a playoff when Chez Reavie, who had birdied the toughest holes on the back nine, made bogey on the easiest hole on the course at No. 18 for a 66. The finished regulation at 15-under 269.

On the 18th hole in the playoff, Simpson again looked to be out of luck when Reavie chipped to tap-in range for birdie. But Simpson rolled in a 15-foot putt to keep the playoff going, and then won with an 8-foot putt on the 17th hole.

Simpson won his first PGA Tour title three weeks ago at the Wyndham Championship, putting him in good shape for the FedEx Cup playoffs and the chase for a $10 million prize.

Deutsche Bank CHAMPIONSHIP

Now, he goes to No. 1 in the standings and is assured of being among the top five when the FedEx Cup concludes at the Tour Championship at the end of the month.

"I thought winning the second time would be easier," Simpson said.

That was never the case on a breezy Labor Day south of Boston, a final round so scrambled that seven players—including world No. 1 Luke Donald—had a share of the lead at some point.

Simpson one-putted seven of his last eight greens, mostly for par on the back nine in regulation to stay in the hunt, then received just enough help from Reavie.

The win was filled with perks, beyond his ranking in the FedEx Cup race. Simpson locked up a spot on the Presidents Cup team in Australia, and moves to No. 14 in the world.

Reavie, who started the season on a medical exemption from knee surgery last year and won't get his full PGA Tour status back until January, came roaring up the leaderboard on the back nine. He made four birdies in a six-hole stretch—including on the toughest par 3 at No. 11 and the toughest hole at No. 14—and was poised to capture his second PGA Tour title until one wedge cost him.

He laid up on the 18th with a one-shot lead and Simpson already finished, but his wedge sailed over the green, and his 10-foot par putt for the win grazed the side of the cup. The runner-up finish still moves Reavie to No. 9 in the FedEx Cup, assuring him a spot in the Tour Championship—and in three majors next year, including the Masters.

Brandt Snedeker, who closed with a 61 last week to tie for third, went out in 30 to take the lead until getting wild off the teed on the back nine. He had to settle for a 66 and another tie for third.

Donald, who matched birdies and eagles with Simpson in regulation, fell apart with a double bogey on No. 12 and a tee shot over the 16th green that led to bogey. He closed with a 67 and tied for third, along with Jason Day, who had a 68.

Bubba Watson, who had a one-shot lead going into the wild final day, chipped in for eagle on the final hole to salvage a 74 that put him in a tie for 16th, seven shots behind.

The drama wasn't limited to the final holes.

The top 70 in the FedEx Cup advance to the third playoff event in two weeks outside Chicago, and some big names were on the cusp of missing out.

Ernie Els, who barely qualified for the playoffs and then narrowly made it to the second stage in Boston, made two key par putts and finished with a 5-foot birdie over his last four holes to move up to No. 68 and advance.

Geoff Ogilvy, trying to keep alive his hopes of making the Presidents Cup in his native Australia, thought he was finished when he made two late bogeys and then hit into native grass behind the rock and took a penalty shot. But he holed a 20-foot par putt on the 17th, then a 6-foot birdie on the 18th hole to move up to No. 69.

Chris Stroud produced a shot even more memorable. Needing nothing less than eagle on the final hole, he hit 3-iron just onto the green, and it caught the ridge and settled 3 feet away for eagle that atoned for a messy day and put him at No. 70.

The PGA Tour now takes a week off before resuming these playoffs at the BMW Championship.

Stewart gets 1-hit shutout; White Sox sweep Twins

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Rookie Zach Stewart took a perfect game into the eighth inning and finished with a one-hitter as the Chicago White Sox completed a doubleheader sweep of the Minnesota Twins with a 4-0 victory on Monday.

Danny Valencia's leadoff double in the eighth spoiled the right-hander's bid to become the 21st rookie in major league history to throw a no-hitter.

The White Sox won the afternoon game 2-1.

The 24-year-old Stewart (2-3), whose only previous major league win came at Target Field last month, struck out nine in the first complete game of his career.

Brent Morel drove in two runs with a seventh-inning single, and Alex Rios had three hits for the White Sox. Twins starter Scott Diamond (1-3) gave up eight hits, two walks and two runs in five innings.

Philip Humber (9-8) set the tone in the matinee by pitching seven scoreless innings to snap a four-game losing streak.

AP

Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Zach Stewart delivers against Minnesota Twins during the ninth inning in the second baseball game of a doubleheader, Monday, Sept. 5, 2011, in Minneapolis.

Yankees 11, Orioles 10

In New York, Jesus Montero broke a fifth-inning deadlock with his first major league home run, then hit a two-run drive in the seventh to help New York outlast Baltimore for its fifth straight win.

Robinson Cano sparked the comeback from a 5-2 second-inning deficit with his third grand slam in less than a month.

Montero broke an 8-all tie when he homered deep into the right-field seats on the second pitch from Jim Johnson (5-5) leading off the fifth. Montero then followed Russell Martin's seventh-inning single off Johnson with another opposite-field drive to right, putting New York ahead 11-8.

Blue Jays 1, Red Sox 0, 11 innings

In Toronto, Brett Lawrie homered in the 11th inning to help Toronto beat Boston and end a three-game losing streak.

Lawrie homered to center off Dan Wheeler (2-2) with two outs in the 11th, his eighth homer since being called up from minor league Triple-A Las Vegas on Aug. 4.

Shawn Camp (3-3) pitched one scoreless inning for the win.

Boston lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Red Sox starter Josh Beckett left in the fourth inning with a sprained right ankle and was replaced by right-hander Alfredo Aceves.

Tigers 4, Indians 2

In Cleveland, Doug Fister struck out a career-high 13 and Victor Martinez hit a three-run homer as Detroit downed Cleveland to extend its American League Central lead to 7 1/2 games.

Fister (7-13) improved to 4-1 in seven starts since being acquired from Seattle on July 30. The right-hander gave up an earned run and four hits over eight innings.

Jose Valverde pitched a perfect ninth for his 41st consecutive save, extending his team record and helping the Tigers improve to 14-4 since holding a 1Ω-game lead on the Indians on Aug. 19.

Martinez drove a 2-2 pitch from Ubaldo Jimenez (2-2) 420 feet into the right-field seats for a 3-0 lead in the fourth.

Rays 5, Rangers 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, James Shields pitched a four-hitter for his major league-best 11th complete game to lead Tampa Bay past Texas.

Shields (14-10) struck out six and walked two. The only run he allowed scored on Michael Young's grounder with one out in the ninth.

Shields also became the first AL pitcher since Randy Johnson in 1993 to have at least 200 strikeouts and 10 complete games in the same season.

Evan Longoria and B.J. Upton homered for the Rays.

Texas starter Scott Feldman (1-1) gave up four runs and four hits in five innings.

White Sox 2, Twins 1, 1st game

In Minneapolis, Philip Humber pitched seven scoreless innings and Juan Pierre had three hits and scored a run as Chicago ended a four-game losing streak.

Brian Dinkelman had a career-high three hits for the Twins, who have lost three straight and seven of 10.

Humber (9-8) was making his first start since Aug. 18 when he was struck above the right eye by a line drive. He gave up six hits, struck out six and did not walk a batter.

Matt Thornton pitched a scoreless 1 1-3 innings, and Sergio Santos allowed one run in the ninth before Chris Sale earned his sixth save in seven chances.

Royals 11, Athletics 6

In Oakland, California, Billy Butler homered twice and drove in three runs, and Alex Gordon doubled home the go-ahead run as Kansas City scored five times in the ninth inning.

Jeff Francoeur, Eric Hosmer and Mike Moustakas had two RBIs apiece and Melky Cabrera also drove in a run for the Royals, who avoided being mathematically eliminated for at least one more day.

Scott Sizemore hit a three-run homer for the A's, who had won four straight. David DeJesus, Josh Willingham and Kurt Suzuki each drove in a run.

Butler hit a tying two-run shot off Craig Breslow in the seventh, and the Royals broke it open against closer Andrew Bailey (0-4) in the ninth.

Angels 7, Mariners 3

In Anaheim, California, Mark Trumbo continued his torrid rookie season with a two-run homer and an RBI double, and Vernon Wells hit his 20th home run as Los Angeles downed Seattle.

Dan Haren (14-8) worked in and out of trouble through six innings, allowing three runs and 10 hits while striking out three and walking none.

Phillies 9, Braves 0

In Philadelphia, Cliff Lee threw a five-hitter for his sixth shutout of the season, helping the National League East-leading Philadelphia Phillies beat the second-place Atlanta Braves.

Lee (16-7) struck out six, walked none and needed only 100 pitches to finish off the Braves after falling one out shy of a shutout in his previous start at Cincinnati. The left-hander has won his last seven starts, and hasn't allowed a run in five of those games.

The Phillies increased their lead to 8 1/2 games over Atlanta and reduced their magic number for clinching their fifth straight NL East title to 16 with 25 games remaining.

Hunter Pence drove in three runs, Ryan Howard hit a solo homer and Shane Victorino and Carlos Ruiz had two-run singles for Philadelphia.

Brewers 4, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Randy Wolf allowed one run over eight innings, and Ryan Braun and Nyjer Morgan homered to lead Milwaukee over St. Louis.

The Brewers won their fourth straight to move 10 1/2 games ahead of St. Louis in the National League Central, equaling their largest lead of the season.

Wolf (12-9) gave up four hits, struck out five and walked two as he improved to 6-1 with a 3.11 ERA in his last eight starts. The left-hander allowed two hits over his final six innings, and had two infield singles.

John Axford pitched a perfect ninth to record his 41th save in 43 chances.

Diamondbacks 10, Rockies 7

In Denver, Geoff Blum homered and Wade Miley tossed seven strong innings as Arizona beat Colorado.

Justin Upton homered and Paul Goldschmidt had three RBIs for Arizona, which has won three straight and 12 of 13. Blum had three hits and three RBIs.

The Diamondbacks held a seven-game over San Francisco in the NL West.

Dexter Fowler homered from both sides of the plate, and Mark Ellis and Troy Tulowitzki also connected for Colorado.

Arizona scored five runs in the sixth to break open a close game.

Nationals 7, Dodgers

In Washington, Michael Morse hit two of Washington's four home runs and John Lannan pitched into the sixth inning to break a four-start losing streak in a win over Los Angeles.

Morse, Ian Desmond and Jayson Werth all went deep in the first inning as Washington grabbed a 4-1 lead. The Nationals had dropped 10 of 12, while the Dodgers came in winners of 11 of 13.

All four homers — Morse hit No. 26 in the sixth inning — came against Hiroki Kuroda (11-15), who entered with a career-high four-game winning streak. The right-hander had a season-high nine strikeouts, but gave up five runs and eight hits in six innings.

Lannan (9-11) allowed one run and five hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Pirates 3, Astros 1

In Pittsburgh, Ryan Doumit had three hits as Pittsburgh's James McDonald pitched into the eighth inning for the first time this season.

Josh Harrison added two hits and Derrek Lee hit his 16th homer as the Pirates won for the third time in four games. It was Lee's fourth homer since he was acquired in a trade with Baltimore on July 30.

Joel Hanrahan worked the ninth for his 35th save.

Henry Sosa (2-3) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings for the Astros, who have lost four straight.

The start of the game was delayed 56 minutes by rain.

Cubs 4, Reds 3

In Chicago, Matt Garza pitched eight strong innings and Aramis Ramirez had a tiebreaking two-run single as Chicago edged Cincinnati.

Garza (8-10) gave up six hits and three runs—one earned—while striking out eight and walking three to win for just the second time at home since June 27. Carlos Marmol finished up for his 32nd save.

Ramirez had his two-run single in the fifth, walked twice and scored a run. Starlin Castro added a single, walk and two runs.

Giants 7, Padres 2

In San Diego, Pablo Sandoval homered twice and Madison Bumgarner struck out a career-high 13 in 8 1-3 innings as San Francisco remained seven games behind NL West-leading Arizona with 21 to play.

The defending World Series champion Giants came into this three-game series with their biggest deficit of the season after losing two of three to the Diamondbacks in a weekend series. The Diamondbacks won 10-7 at Colorado on Monday.

Sandoval's 17th and 18th homers, both off Tim Stauffer (8-12), were enough to carry the Giants to their third win in eight games.

The Giants have hit seven homers in their last five games after going homerless in their previous six. It was the third time Sandoval has had two homers in a game. The first two were in 2009.

Bumgarner (10-12) came within two outs of his first career complete game.

Marlins 9, Mets 3

In Miami, Javier Vazquez pitched seven strong innings and Jose Lopez homered for Florida, which had 15 hits in a win over New York.

Emilio Bonifacio and Gaby Sanchez both had three hits and two RBIs and Lopez and Logan Morrison had three hits each to help the Marlins win three straight for the first time since July 31-Aug. 2.

Vazquez (9-11) gave up one run and six hits while striking out seven and walking none.

Jason Bay hit his 11th homer, a two-run shot off Chris Hatcher in the ninth, for the Mets.

Brenden Ryan got Seattle within 6-3 in the fifth with his third homer. It ended a stretch of 50 1-3 innings and 199 batters in which Haren had not allowed a home run against the Mariners. The previous one was Jose Lopez's three-run shot in Seattle's 4-0 victory at Oakland on Sept. 17, 2007.

WEIGH-IN

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also be available on Friday when the doors of Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom open at 7pm.

Competition starts at 8pm on Friday with a series of K-1 kickboxing bouts, a pair of boxing exhibitions, and an array of MMA matchups, including a highly anticipated featherweight title match between Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez (6-0) and Marianas Elite's Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar (3-9).

The Alvarez-Rangamar tiff will lead up to the triple-main event, featuring Saipan brawlers and a pair of challengers from the U.S. mainland.

In K-1, Guam's John Garcia, of Counter Shot, takes on Zalaka's Jacob Ilo in a 125-lb match. Guam Muay Thai's Justin "Dungka" Dizon, meanwhile, challenges Zeng Zung's Regino Mundo at 150 lbs, while Haga's Jordan "Jungle Boy" Ogo squares off against Counter Shot's Jared Santos at 120 lbs.

In boxing, a special female exhibition bout is set between Guam's Gianna "GiaBaby" Sarusal of Dededo Boxing Club-Lights Out Gym and independent Tara "The Tarantula" Namauleg at 150 lbs.

Trench Tech's Mark "The Dark" Nuique is also set to dance with Zalaka's Franklin Agulto at 155 lbs.

The eight MMA matches include: Trench Tech's Vince Masga vs. Irvin Saralu (155-160 lbs); Trench Tech's Josh "Chaos" Duenas vs. Counter Shot's Kevin Miranda (135 lbs); Trench Tech's Frank Muna vs. Pete Keju (160 lbs); Zalaka's Joe "Da Combo" Duenas vs. Jason "Ground Maintenance" Teregeyo (135 lbs); Trench Tech's Walter Florencio vs. Leonard "JC" Cabrera (135 lbs); independents Brandon "Commotion" Camacho vs. Danny "Warrior" Santos (145 lbs); Trench Tech's "Badd" Brad Palacios vs. Guam's Mike "The Attack" Limiac, of the Tsunami Gym, (140 lbs); and Trench Tech's Ryan "Trobz" Ngirbabul vs. Derrick "The Headache" San Nicolas (195 lbs).

The triple-main event starts with Trench Tech's Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse (7-3) against USA's Joseph "J.J." Ambrose (15-3), of the American Kickboxing Academy and Tiger Muay Thai, at 155 lbs.

Notably, Jesse is coming off a pair of wins since March of this year, while Ambrose is on a five-win streak since late November of 2008.

Marianas Elite's Maitai "The Charger" Charley (3-7) then takes on USA's Will "The Kill" Chope (2-4), of Dragon Muay Thai, at 150 lbs, and the evening concludes with a super heavyweight brawl between Trench Tech's Mylo "AlabaMMA" Lassiter (2-0) against Marianas Elite's Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas (5-2) at around 230 lbs.

Charley and Chope are both trying to bounce back from recent losses.

San Nicolas holds a size and experience advantage over Lassiter, but has not fought since 2009. However, the latter boasts a pair of swift first round victories

The matchups for ROP 11: Onra are based on the latest tentative fight card, which is subject to changes upon fight night.

CNMI

From Page 28

play first at 9am (8am) in Mont-Dore and must win against New Caledonia to keep its medal hopes alive.

Winner of the CNMI-New Caledonia tiff will advance to the semifinals and face Palau later in the afternoon at 1pm. Defending champion Palau failed to earn a return trip to the finals outright after losing to undefeated Guam yesterday, 0-4.

In the New Caledonia-CNMI tiff, the host team is slightly favored after eking out a 3-2 win in the elimination round last week.

The Commonwealth sluggers were in control of their first meeting with New Caledonia, leading at 2-0, after six and a half innings. However, coach Tony Rogolifoi's wards collapsed in the last inning, committing one error after another, allowing the host team to escape with the win with three unearned runs.

After the close defeat to New Caledonia, the CNMI dropped another heartbreaker against Guam, 5-6, but won its last two games in the elimination round against American Samoa, 9-4, and Fiji, 2-1. The Commonwealth's other victory came against Palau, 1-0, during the opening of the baseball competition on Aug. 30.

Josh Jones pitched for the CNMI against Palau and had 14 strikeouts. He sat out in the game against New Caledonia and Guam and pitched only one inning versus American Samoa (with three strikeouts) and two innings against Fiji (with five strikeouts). Jones is expected to get a lot of minutes in the playoff game today against New Caledonia and if possible, over Palau. He will be sharing the mound with Elton Santos, Franco Flores, and Vince Cepeda.

On offense, the CNMI will lean on Tyrone Omar and Jesus Iguel, who scored on a run apiece against New Caledonia. Iguel also reached home plate for the CNMI off Jerome Delos Santos' hit against Fiji and was 2-for-4 at bat and scored two runs and two RBIs versus American Samoa. Designated hitter Keoni Lizama was only 1-for-3 against American Samoa, but posted three runs, while Eric Tenorio carded two RBIs and one run off a 1-for-4 performance at the plate.

Dillay completes 400m

Meanwhile, Douglas Dillay raced in the 400m run yesterday and timed in at 54.87 seconds.

The CNMI runner failed to qualify to the next round as only the Top 2 runners on Heat 3 were allowed to advance and he finished seventh. Fiji's Ratutira Narara topped the heat at 48.68 second, joining Papua New Guinea's Wala Gime (49.11 seconds) to the semifinals.

Dillay's teammates—Rachael Abrams and Trevor Ogumoro—took a break yesterday and will return to the Stade Numa Daly in Noumea. Ogumoro will be competing in the long jump at 4:30pm, while Abrams will race in the 200m run at 3:40pm. Dillay will have a day off today and will join his last event—the 400m hurdles—tomorrow. Ogumoro and Abrams will have their last event this Saturday with the former competing in triple jump and the latter in long jump.

Medals pour in

Medals continued to pour in Day 11 of the 2011 Pacific Games with New Caledonia catching most of them.

As of 7pm last night, New Caledonia has earned 74 gold medals, 59 silver, and 29 bronze to lead the 22-nation competition. Tahiti remains at third with its 31-22-21 tally, while Fiji and Papua New Guinea are still neck-and-neck with their 22-23-28 and 20-14-25 medal haul, respectively. Kiribati won its first gold, joining fifth placer Samoa (4-10-13), Nauru (4-5-4), Tonga (3-5-9), and FSM (3-0-0).

3 COUNTRIES

From Page 28

disappointment with the loss, but respected the participating nations' decision.

"We are all very disappointed. The CNMI clearly had the best bid in terms of facilities and our presentation was clearly superior. As best we can figure, the vote was based strictly on economics. Even with our lower per diem offer, it would have cost most countries more to get to the CNMI, in terms of air fare and the cost of U.S. visas, than to get to Vanuatu," White said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* last Monday.

Despite the trend of having the Mini and Pacific Games in either Melanesia or Polynesia, council executive director Andrew Minogue encouraged all Pacific nations to bid for the hosting rights of these competitions.

"It's very important that each of our member associations have an opportunity to host something. Whether it's the big Games for the larger countries or the Mini Games for the smaller ones," Minogue was quoted by Radio New Zealand.

IT&E

From Page 28

originally scheduled during opening day of the league on July 18. Against Kulet's Team, Thai Team drew one goal each from Stoffer, Catherine Perry, and Khankew Baothiang. Corina Suda made a pair for Kulet's Team.

Kulet's Team 2, Mellow Yellow 0

Kulet's Team played back-to-back games Monday night and recovered from an earlier loss with a 2-0 shutout win over Mellow Yellow.

Vanessa Pritchard and Cleo Nening recorded one goal apiece for Kulet's Team, which improved to a 4-6-1 slate for sixth place in the eight-team field.

MEN'S
Red Inter 8, Mellow Yellow 4
Red Inter 8, Thundercats 5

Red Inter were on target in their last two games, collecting a total of 16 goals.

In last Friday's make-up game, Red Inter downed Mellow Yellow, 8-4.

Edwin Cruz and Arkie Reusora fired three goals each, while Dale Roberts contributed two. Mellow Yellow got two goals apiece from Gabriel Arkoh and Woo Ho Jin.

Red Inter's second straight game was against the winless Thundercats and the former triumphed anew, 8-5, to tie Korea Futsal in third place with their similar 6-3-2 slates.

Arkie Reusora was still at it in last Monday's match, making five goals, while Cruz and John Duenas had two and one, respectively.

Evert Van Der Maas, Jordan Butcher, Timothy Tawanpiy, Lin Zhi Peng, and Hang Sung Lee scored one goal each for the Thundercats (0-11-0).

Wild Bill's 6, Korean Futsal 3

Wild Bill's defeated Korean Futsal in the second round of the double-round robin competition, 6-3, to stay on top of the men's division and boosted its title chances.

Jeeraphong Thoensaket tallied four goals for Wild Bill's, while Lar Wongpanya made the other two. Dae Won Jeon also had a pair for Korean Futsal, while Min Jin Choi scored one.

Wild Bill's now has a 10-1-0 record, three wins ahead of Docomo and four victories up from Korean Futsal and Red Inter. The team with the best record at the end of the double-round robin league wins the championship.

Docomo 5, Go Green 3

Docomo bumped off Korean Futsal from the second spot after a 5-3 triumph over Go Green last Monday.

Docomo moved up to a 7-2-2 record after getting four goals from Ropati Tonuu and one from Isra Harahap. Jack Phan and Kiyoshi Sekiguchi scored for Go Green, which drew an own goal in the second half. Go Green dropped to a 4-4-3 card for fifth place.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	86	53	.619	–
Boston	84	56	.600	2 1/2
Tampa Bay	77	63	.550	9 1/2
Toronto	70	71	.496	17
Baltimore	55	84	.396	31

Central Division

Detroit	79	62	.560	–
Cleveland	70	68	.507	7 1/2
Chicago	70	69	.504	8
Kansas City	59	83	.415	20 1/2
Minnesota	58	83	.411	21

West Division

Texas	80	62	.563	–
Los Angeles	77	64	.546	2 1/2
Oakland	64	77	.454	15 1/2
Seattle	58	82	.414	21

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	89	48	.650	–
Atlanta	82	58	.586	8 1/2
New York	68	71	.489	22
Washington	65	74	.468	25
Florida	63	77	.450	27 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	85	57	.599	–
St. Louis	74	67	.525	10 1/2
Cincinnati	69	72	.489	15 1/2
Pittsburgh	65	76	.461	19 1/2
Chicago	61	80	.433	23 1/2
Houston	47	94	.333	37 1/2

West Division

Arizona	81	60	.574	–
San Francisco	74	67	.525	7
Los Angeles	68	72	.486	12 1/2
Colorado	66	75	.468	15
San Diego	61	80	.433	20

Yesterday's Games

Washington 7, L.A. Dodgers 2
Pittsburgh 3, Houston 1
Chicago Cubs 4, Cincinnati 3
Arizona 10, Colorado 7
San Francisco 7, San Diego 2
Milwaukee 4, St. Louis 1
Philadelphia 9, Atlanta 0
Florida 9, N.Y. Mets 3
N.Y. Yankees 11, Baltimore 10
Detroit 4, Cleveland 2
Toronto 1, Boston 0, 11 innings
Tampa Bay 5, Texas 1
Chicago White Sox 2, Minnesota 1st game
Chicago White Sox 4, Minnesota 2nd game
Kansas City 11, Oakland 6
L.A. Angels 7, Seattle 3

DEUTSCHE BANK CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

NORTON, Massachusetts (AP)–Scores Monday from the $8-million Deutsche Bank Championship, played at the par-71 (36-35), 7,214-yard TPC Boston.

FINAL ROUND

Webb Simpson (2,500), $1,440,000 69-68-67-65_269
Chez Reavie (1,500), $864,000 67-68-68-66_269
Jason Day (767), $416,000 67-69-67-68_271
Luke Donald (767), $416,000 66-70-68-67_271
Brandt Snedeker (767), $416,000 69-64-72-66_271
Jim Furyk (500), $288,000 69-69-66-68_272
Bo Van Pelt (450), $268,000 73-68-66-66_273
Hunter Mahan (413), $240,000 68-71-69-66_274
Adam Scott (413), $240,000 69-63-71-71_274
Phil Mickelson (319), $177,333 70-73-63-69_275
Kyle Stanley (319), $177,333 68-71-68-68_275
Blake Adams (319), $177,333 70-67-68-70_275
Jerry Kelly (319), $177,333 66-69-68-72_275
Ryan Moore (319), $177,333 68-68-69-70_275
Brendan Steele (319), $177,333 69-67-67-72_275
Ernie Els (265), $120,000 70-65-71-70_276
Zach Johnson (265), $120,000 68-69-69-70_276
Robert Karlsson (265), $120,000 74-67-64-71_276
Steve Marino (265), $120,000 67-72-68-69_276
Bubba Watson (265), $120,000 68-64-70-74_276
Chad Campbell (243), $86,400 71-67-69-70_277
Lucas Glover (243), $86,400 69-69-69-70_277
Charl Schwartzel (243), $86,400 66-66-72-73_277
John Senden (243), $86,400 70-69-67-71_277
Matt Kuchar (218), $61,067 69-69-71-69_278
Sean O'Hair (218), $61,067 70-70-66-72_278
Camilo Villegas (218), $61,067 73-70-65-70_278
Johnson Wagner (218), $61,067 69-69-71-69_278
Geoff Ogilvy (218), $61,067 69-70-66-73_278
Gary Woodland (218), $61,067 69-69-66-74_278
Jason Dufner (188), $46,400 68-67-74-70_279
Sergio Garcia (188), $46,400 71-65-74-69_279
Charley Hoffman (188), $46,400 70-73-65-71_279
Charles Howell III (188), $46,400 72-70-69-68_279
Chris Kirk (188), $46,400 71-66-72-70_279
Andres Romero (188), $46,400 71-68-69-71_279
Spencer Levin (160), $36,000 72-71-67-70_280
Graeme McDowell (160), $36,000 71-68-70-71_280
George McNeill (160), $36,000 67-72-70-71_280
Carl Pettersson (160), $36,000 69-70-70-71_280
Jimmy Walker (160), $36,000 71-72-70-67_280
Greg Chalmers (123), $24,576 72-65-71-73_281
Brian Davis (123), $24,576 70-66-72-73_281
Fredrik Jacobson (123), $24,576 74-66-70-71_281
Dustin Johnson (123), $24,576 68-71-67-75_281
Marc Leishman (123), $24,576 71-72-66-72_281
William McGirt (123), $24,576 69-69-71-72_281
Steve Stricker (123), $24,576 69-73-69-70_281
Chris Stroud (123), $24,576 72-68-68-73_281
Jhonattan Vegas (123), $24,576 71-72-67-71_281
Y.E. Yang (123), $24,576 66-71-71-73_281
Robert Allenby (88), $18,760 70-72-69-71_282
Rickie Fowler (88), $18,760 68-67-70-77_282
J.J. Henry (88), $18,760 72-68-71-71_282
Scott Stallings (88), $18,760 72-65-74-71_282
Jonathan Byrd (70), $18,080 67-71-74-71_283
Bill Lunde (70), $18,080 68-71-70-74_283
Mark Wilson (70), $18,080 70-70-69-74_283
Robert Garrigus (58), $17,680 72-69-73-70_284
David Toms (58), $17,680 69-72-67-76_284
Ben Crane (35), $16,960 70-71-71-73_285
Bill Haas (35), $16,960 70-70-72-73_285
Ryuji Imada (35), $16,960 73-69-70-73_285
Brandt Jobe (35), $16,960 71-72-70-72_285
Ryan Palmer (35), $16,960 70-73-69-73_285
Pat Perez (35), $16,960 74-69-75-67_285
Nick Watney (35), $16,960 67-67-71-80_285
Davis Love III (8), $16,000 71-72-69-74_286
Jeff Overton (8), $16,000 70-71-76-69_286
John Rollins (8), $16,000 68-73-69-76_286
Justin Rose (8), $16,000 70-70-72-74_286
Rory Sabbatini (8), $16,000 67-75-72-72_286
Padraig Harrington (5), $15,520 69-73-70-75_287
Martin Laird (5), $15,280 71-72-72-73_288
Scott Piercy (5), $15,280 68-73-77-70_288
Ricky Barnes (4), $15,040 72-69-71-77_289
Aaron Baddeley (4), $14,800 72-69-75-75_291
Troy Matteson (4), $14,800 65-71-77-78_291

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

PACIFIC GAMES MEDAL STANDINGS

Countries	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
New Caledonia	74	59	29	162
Tahiti	31	22	21	74
Fiji Islands	22	23	28	73
Papua New Guinea	20	14	25	59
Samoa	4	10	13	27
Nauru	4	5	4	13
Tonga	3	5	9	17
FSM	3	0	0	3
Kiribati	1	0	3	4
Vanuatu	0	5	6	11
Solomon Islands	0	3	7	10
Guam	0	3	2	5
Tuvalu	0	2	1	3
Cook Islands	0	1	4	5
Wallis & Futuna	0	1	3	4
Palau	0	1	2	3
Tokelau	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	0	0	0	0
Niue	0	0	0	0
Marshall Islands	0	0	0	0
CNMI	0	0	0	0
American Samoa	0	0	0	0

FUTSAL LEAGUE STANDINGS

Women's

	W	L	D
Shirley's A	9	2	0
IT&E Awesome	8	2	1
Shirley's B	7	4	0
Red Team	6	5	0
Thai Team	5	4	2
Kulet's Team	4	6	1
Mellow Yellow	3	8	0
IT&E Blossom0	11	0	

Men's

Wild Bill's	10	1	0
Docomo	7	2	2
Korean Futsal	6	3	2
Red Inter	6	3	2
Go Green	4	4	3
IT&E Men	4	7	1
Mellow Yellow	2	9	0
Thundercats	0	11	0

Opening of 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Susan Macario, general manager of competition sponsor Shirley's Coffee Shop, delivers a brief message during the opening ceremony, while Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Jerry Tan looks on.

Two youth guests join players of Shirley's Badminton Club in the opening ceremony.

Players of the Golden Racquets are all smiles as they enter the court.

Shirley's Badminton Club's Robert Reyes leads the opening prayer.

Taga's Andrew Galvez leads the oath of sportsmanship.

Members of the Saipan Badminton Club pose with their banner during the parade of teams in the opening ceremony for the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic at the TSL Sports Complex.

Only three players from Dberks Blazers are available to join the parade of teams.

Oh In Sook returns, while teammate Gary Bandoja looks on during their game against Alvin Alvarez and Emily Vargas in the opening day of the Shirley's Classic.

Team captains of the five clubs competing in the Shirley's Classic join Shirley's Coffee Shop general manager Susan Macario, third left, for a group photo.

Players and other participants in the mixed doubles competition recite the oath of sportsmanship.

Williams easily beats Ivanovic to reach quarters
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Stewart gets 1-hit shutout; White Sox sweep Twins
PAGE 25

CNMI spikers absorb first loss

» Sluggers play crucial game vs New Caledonia

WWW.NC2011.COM/ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Tyce Mister returns to Palau during his and Chris Nelson's debut game in the beach volleyball competition of the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia last Monday. Right, Douglas Dillay, seen here in a file photo, yesterday competed in the 400m race.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Tyce Mister and Chris Nelson missed recording back-to-back wins in the beach volleyball competition of the 2011 Pacific Games yesterday and the Commonwealth sluggers will try not to bring more bad news from New Caledonia when they gun for an important win against the host team today.

The CNMI spikers bowed to American Samoa in straight sets at the Terrain de beach-volley Koutio in Dumbea to drop to a 1-1 record. The youthful tandem of Sam Samasoni Luaiva and Sigalu Selefuti Aitui swept the veteran pair of Nelson and Mister, 21-11, 21-15.

Luaiva at 15 is the youngest among the four players who saw action in the first game of Day 2 of the beach volleyball competition. His teammate is only 17, more than 20 years younger than the 43-year-old Mister and 40-year-old Nelson.

The Commonwealth bets will try to recover from the loss today when they face defending champion Tahiti at 12pm (11am Saipan time).

Before Mister and Nelson's third game at the sand court, the CNMI Baseball Team will

See CNMI on Page 26

Three countries want hosting duties for 2019 Pacific Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After the Pacific Games Council awarded the 2017 Mini Games to Vanuatu, the group will next prepare for the hosting rights bids for the 2019 Pacific Games.

Three nations have already expressed their interest to host the 16th edition of the quadrennial meet. The list includes Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tahiti. Tahiti is the only one among the three countries to have hosted the Pacific Games, having done so in 1971 and 1995.

Deadline for the submission of bids has yet to be set, but selection is expected to take place in 2013 when Wallis and Futuna hosts the 9th Pacific Mini Games. Two years after the Mini Games, the region's athletes and officials head to Papua New Guinea for the 15th Pacific Games.

Since 2007, the hosting rights for the Mini and Pacific Games were awarded to either Melanesian or Polynesian nations. Palau was the last Micronesian country to have hosted the Mini Games in 2005. Guam hosted the Pacific Games in 1999.

The CNMI tried to bring the 2017 Mini Games to Saipan, but lost to Vanuatu in the second round of selection last Sunday during the council general assembly. Vanuatu and the CNMI were even after the first round, 8-8, while Nauru was eliminated after getting one only six votes. The Commonwealth then only got one of Nauru's votes in the second round to bow to Vanuatu, 9-13.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White, who was present at the assembly, and other members of the CNMI bid committee could not hide their

See 3 COUNTRIES on Page 26

IT&E Awesome closes in to Shirley's A

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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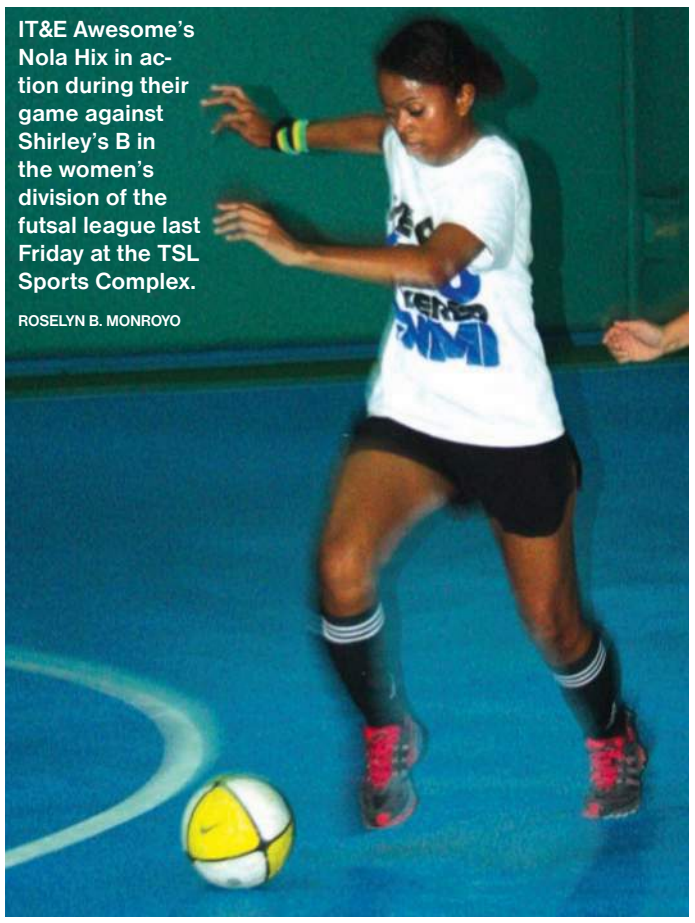
REPORTER

IT&E Awesome pulled off a 3-0 upset over longtime leader Shirley's A during a make-up game in the women's division of the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

IT&E Awesome now has an 8-2-1 win-loss-draw record, threatening Shirley's A's lead, which is now only one victory, as the latter owns a 9-2-0 card. IT&E Awesome got its eighth win after crushing sister team IT&E Blossom last Monday, 7-1.

Nola Hix scored one goal apiece in the first and second half, while Carrie Schuler made one in the opening frame against Shirley's A. Versus IT&E Blossom, Vanessa Mobel had a hat-trick, Michelle Masga added two, and Julie Hall Schuler chipped in one apiece. Clarisse Mendoza posted the lone goal for IT&E Blossom.



IT&E Awesome's Nola Hix in action during their game against Shirley's B in the women's division of the futsal league last Friday at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Three other games originally scheduled on Aug. 29 were played last Friday, while five matches were completed last Monday

Thai Team 3, Shirley's B 2
Thai Team 3, Kulet's Team 2

Also recording a surprised win last Friday was Thai Team, which stunned Shirley's B, 3-2.

Pratoon Stoffer tallied all three goals for Thai Team, nailing two in the second half. Alexa Vergara logged one goal for Shirley's B in the opening quarter, while Mikky Vargas nailed the other won in the second.

Shirley's B dropped to third place with its 7-4-0 slate, behind IT&E Awesome and Shirley's B, while Thai Team climbed up to fifth place with its 6-5-0, as it also won last Monday against Kulet's Team, 3-2.

The Thai and Kulet tiff was

See IT&E on Page 26

Weigh-in for ROP 11: Onra tomorrow

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ring girls and sisters Sarah, left, and Deryielle Sablan are yet another reason to check out Trench Tech Purebred Promotions' weigh-in for Rites of Passage 11: Onra set tomorrow night from 5pm to 7pm at World Resort Saipan's Red Box.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The weigh-in for Friday's Rites of Passage 11: Onra will be held from 5pm to 7pm tomorrow night at World Resort Saipan's Red Box.

Trench Tech Purebred Promotions president Cuki Alvarez said the weigh-in will also serve as the deadline for fighters seeing action in ROP 11: Onra to sign their contracts.

In addition, Alvarez said the official rules meeting will also be conducted after tomorrow's weigh-in.

Competing fight teams along with ring girls—Sarah and Deryielle Sablan—will be on hand to meet and greet mixed martial arts fans and are also available for photo opportunities.

In addition, tickets will be on sale during the weigh-in and will

See WEIGH-IN on Page 26